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A History

of

Czechs *(Bohemians)* in Nebraska

Compiled by
Rose Rosicky

Czech Historical Society of Nebraska
Omaha, 1929

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Omaha, Nebraska

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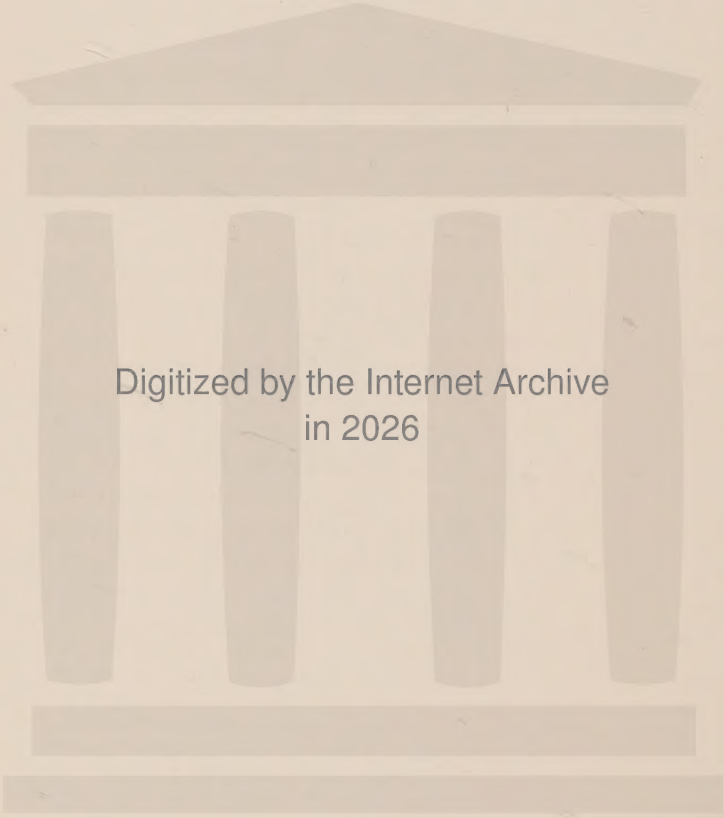
"John Rosický was the best known Czech in the northwest. He deserves great credit for Nebraska being so largely Czech, for he devoted his most productive years to that state."

("Fifty Years of Czech Letters in America".)

THOMAS ČAPEK

To
The Memory of
My Father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Preface

An historian, in the true sense of the word, is one who collects his material for many years before he begins to write; who makes note of events as they occur; who personally interviews people, perhaps undertaking many journeys for that purpose. In that sense, this book is not a history, for I have compiled it from various sources as best I could at this comparatively late day. It ought to have been written fifteen years ago by someone who came to our state a pioneer and could write of what he personally knew, with the aid of his co-evals, most of whom are now dead. However, it was not done and I have tried to record, as well as I could, all that in the future may be an imprint of Czechs and their life in Nebraska. By this I mean, especially, Czech immigrants, which phase in the history of our state is rapidly drawing to its close.

I began this work in October 1925, and with the aid of my many friends, some of whom are not known to me personally, but who have surely evinced a spirit of friendship by cooperating with me, I have been able to collect the data contained herein.

As reference works I used the following publications: Dr. John A. Habenicht's history of Czechs in Nebraska (Dějiny Čechů Amerických—Nebraska); old volumes of the farm paper Hospodář; old files of the weekly newspaper Osvěta Americká; the almanach Pionýr, (the last three published in Omaha); the almanach Amerikán (published in Chicago); Rev. Houšt's historical work about Catholic parishes (České Katolické Osady v Americe) published in St. Louis; Rev. Brož's history of his parish (Dějiny české katolické osady sv. Václava v Dodge, Nebraska); a history of Czech Protestants (Památník českých evangelických církví v Americe), published in Chicago; Thomas Čapek's "Fifty Years of Czech Letters in America", published in New York, and "The Czechs and Slovaks in American Banking", by him and his son Thomas Jr., published in New York.

My sincere gratitude is due the following, who most kindly furnished me needed data. In a general way, on various subjects: Mr. Stanislav Šerpán, Czechoslovak Consul in Omaha; Mr. F. J. Sadílek, Wilber, Nebr.; Mr. John Janák, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. Gustav K. Janata and Mr. Charles Duras, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Joseph Michal, Omaha, for information regarding the beginnings of Pokrok Západu;

Prof. Orin Štěpánek, Lincoln, Nebr., for information regarding teachers and physicians; Miss Alice Bartoš, Wilber, Nebr., for names of county officeholders; Mr. Adolph Musil, Omaha, for information regarding Komenský Clubs and teaching of Czech in the Nebraska State University; Prof. Charles C. Charvát, Omaha, for information regarding the Czech Club and teaching of Czech in Creighton University in Omaha; Mr. Joseph Drtina, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for list of Czech Liberals' community halls; secretaries of lodges belonging to the Western Bohemian Fraternal Assn. and present incumbents of Czech Catholic parishes for information regarding schools and cemeteries; secretaries of the general offices of various fraternal and other associations for information regarding lodges. Besides these there were many who kindly furnished me with items concerning themselves. To all, again, my hearty thanks.

In compiling the history of Catholics, Dr. Habenicht's history and that of Rev. John St. Brož were used, in connection with the history of Rev. Houšt, augmented by the services of Mr. V. F. Jelínek, Omaha, Monsignore M. A. Shine, Plattsmouth, Monsignore Alois J. Klein, Brainard, and the present incumbents of various parishes.

The history of the Protestants (Památník), published in 1900, was used as a foundation and brought to date through the kind help of Rev. B. A. Filipi, Clarkson, who also furnished information about Protestant cemeteries.

"Fifty Years of Czech Letters in America" (by Thomas Čapek, published in 1910) was brought to date by me for the chapter on Publications. "The Czechs and Slovaks in American Banking" (same author, in collaboration with his son Thomas Jr., published in 1920) was brought to date by Mr. Emil Folda, Clarkson, Nebraska.

In addition, the following furnished data on settlements of various counties, some of these kind people taking great pains with the work:

Boone County: Miss Otilie Papež, Albion; Boyd County: Andrew J. Křikač, Butte; Buffalo and Sherman Counties: Frank Fiala, Ravenna; Butler County: Matěj J. Bouše, David City; Cass County: Mrs. Marie F. Bělohlavý, Plattsmouth, (whose account of the abduction of Josephine Scheinost, as given in the history of Brown County, also was used); Chase and Perkins Counties: Mrs. Frances Vančura, Elsie; Cheyenne County: Andrew J. Křikač, Butte; Colfax County: Joseph Sudík of Schuyler (the lion's share), Jos. B. Šindelář, Howell, and J. M. Mundil and Anton Odvárka Sr., Clarkson. Joseph F. Zajíček of West Point wrote Mr. Čejda's recollections, from his dictation. Cuming County: Joseph F. Zajíček, West Point; Custer County: Vencl Křikač Sr., Comstock; Dawes County: Stanislav Civiš, Hemingford and B. J. Chalupa, Hay Springs; Dodge County: Charles Brázda and F. A. Janeček of Dodge; Fillmore County: Dr. V. V. Šmrha, Milligan; Gage County: Mrs. Frank Běloušek, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Garfield County: Frank Miško, Ord; Hayes County: Frank Brož, Tampa, Kansas; Holt County: George Jonáš, Stuart; Howard County: C. V. Svoboda, St. Paul; Johnson County: Frank Sikyta, Beatrice; Knox County: J. V. Holeček, Jos. P. Šedivý, Mrs. Anna Kálal, and Anton V. Kouba, Niobrara and Verdigre; Lancaster County: A. F. Bulín, Gilead, Fr. Rejcha, Wilber and L. M. Hromas, Lincoln; Madison County: Joseph Štorek, Madison; Pawnee County:

F. G. Dobrovolný, Pawnee City and A. R. Kovanda, Table Rock; Pierce County: A. Šilháček, Pierce; Richardson County: Otto Kotouč, Humboldt; Red Willow County: Mrs. Justina Horký, Indianola; Saline County: Mrs. Marie Jelínek, Crete (the larger share) and F. J. Sadílek, Wilber; Saunders County: Anton Kašpar, Prague, F. Kaplan, Morse Bluff, Fr. Doležal Sr., Wahoo; Sheridan County: B. J. Chalupa, Hay Springs; Thayer County: Henry Komrs, Gilead; Valley County: Vencl Křikač, Comstock and Frank Miško, Ord; Webster County: Václav Maruška, Red Cloud.

All records of clerical incumbents, political officials, teachers, physicians, dentists, lawyers, banks, etc., are as of 1925—1926, when this history was written.

It may be in order to insert here a few explanations:

More pioneers arrived in each county than are listed, in some instances many, many more, but the names shown are all that could be verified at this late day. It was the desire to list only those with date of arrival in connection, as far as possible.

The first three volumes of the Czech farm paper Hospodář contained a directory of Czechs in Nebraska, except Omaha, and the birthplace of each person was given. From those volumes were taken the birthplaces as shown in this book. It will be seen that most of the addresses give the names of two or more places. This means one of two things, customary with addresses in Czechoslovakia. The second name may be the name of the nearest postoffice station, for many villages there, especially in years gone by, were not railroad stations and the mail was brought by a carrier. Or it may mean the name of the county. It is interesting to note, in this connection, that many followed others from the same neighborhood.

While only the names of the men are given, it is safe to say that the large majority brought families with them. The wives and children toiled hard and suffered hardships too, and though here nameless, deserve a large share of credit.

Inasmuch as it was given me to know both languages, and also because I had always been in a position to observe conditions pertaining to Czechs in Nebraska, and last, but not at all least, because I have always had a great interest and love for my people, I felt it my moral duty to record

the story of their life in our state. There must be a great deal lacking and some of the material may not be absolutely correct in minute detail, but I have done my best under the circumstances. If nothing more, my work may serve someone else as a foundation, for correction and completion.

Books of an historical nature often gain value and appreciation with time. If that proves true of this and descendants of Czech pioneers in Nebraska in future will peruse these pages, I wish to leave, as my message to them, this quotation from the monumental history of Bohemia, written by Francis Palacký: "Were I but a gypsy by birth, and the last of that race, I would still deem it my duty to try to perpetuate an honorable mention of it in the annals of mankind."

Verily, the history or at least such record as may be secured ought to be perpetuated even of the most lowly and insignificant of peoples, for each is a component part of the human race. How much reason, then, have descendants of Czechs in this country to feel proud of belonging to an ancient and illustrious race, even through ancestry overseas,—a nation one of the first in Europe to conceive and promulgate religious and intellectual liberty.

Bohemia was the first Protestant nation in Europe and the first to fight for democracy, for the Hussite Wars were first in that respect. Not only in this were Czechs pioneers but their king (George of Poděbrad) made the first attempt to form a peace league. Antoine Marini, a French member of his court, presented the idea to him in 1461 and the following year the King of Poland was won for the plan. It was called The Peace Federation of Christian Princes. About that time negotiations also took place in the Venetian republic, where a league with Bohemia, France, Poland, Hungary, Burgundy and Bavaria was welcomed, provided the Pope were not excluded. In 1464 King George sent to Paris a Czech embassy, representing Bohemia, Poland and Hungary, to ask the French king to convoke an assembly of Christian kings and princes for the purpose of forming a league which would preserve peace among themselves and weld them together in protection against the Turks.

However, the French king decided it was more fitting that such matters be left to the Pope.

The Bible was translated into Czech before it was translated into English. The first hymn-book in a native tongue was in Czech. The first picture-book for school-children was arranged by the first great pedagogue, Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius, born 1592, died 1670) whose motto was: "The school is the workshop of humanity."

In closing I repeat once more my heartfelt gratitude to those who assisted me. Nearly all the Czechs in Nebraska knew my father, personally or by name, and even now, sixteen years after his death, many helped me out of friendship and love for his memory. "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die" is inscribed on the monument dedicated to him by his fellow-countrymen, — an axiom demonstrated by the cooperation I have received.

Omaha, Nebraska, October 25th, 1926.

ROSE ROSICKY.

Nebraska

Of all our states I know Nebraska best. A thousand delightful impressions linger in my memory forever. Pleasant little towns and the fragrant, wholesome countryside. with large fields of rustling corn; the silvery surface of Platte River, tinted in rose and pearl by the rising sun; a moonlit evening in a boat on the Big Blue River, from whose banks rise trees festooned with the lace of wild hops, of a narcotic perfume, while the clamorous music of the cicadas calls forth to mind Vrchlický's verses. The river shores covered with a rank growth of milkweed that stains one's hands with its milky blood. It has a pretty blossom much resembling the edelweiss, for which people risk lives in the Alp mountains. Milkweed covers Nebraska's prairies and bare places in rich profusion, beautiful and neglected, except when a sharp plow tears it by the root and lays it low in its grave.

Mrs. Božena Pavlíková

And the pictures change as in a kaleidoscope. Farms smiling with prosperity, their generous hostesses greeting visitors heartily and conducting them about yards filled with poultry, orchards and gardens, barns and grain cribs—all through their domain, evolved by the work of their hands.

I see country roads bordered by cottonwoods and golden sunflowers, so agreeable to the eye of man and birds in autumn, but not so pleasing to the farmer. I see brooks and streams where the wild grapes grow in the thickets, and slender nettles with their strong odor,—so strong that when wheels but touch them, it pursues the traveler a long way.

Again the picture changes. Now I see rows of blooming linden trees in the main street of a little town bustling with a Fourth-of-July celebration. I see sultry August days, when the wind seems to blow from a forge, when people grow languid with the heat, but the corn grows before one's very eyes, — murmurs, rustles, crackles and ripens as if by miracle. Wild doves coo contentedly on wire fences bounding the fields and whippoorwills sing the praises, in melancholy tones, of the beautiful moonlit night. The snort and whistle of threshing machines, leaving, in their wake, stubbled fields and piles of grain. The waning autumn with its array of purple asters and crimson dahlias, golden straw and orange-colored pumpkins, and all about the goldenrod, without whose beauty Nebraska is unthinkable. Then the keen and cold winter, with its snows gleaming as diamonds in the sunshine, with its winds and storms, when a warm room and a book are best. The country sleeps so soundly that not even the loud shriek of the railroad engine, reverberating in manifold echoes from the snowy hill to the snowy cliff, awakens it, — although the sound is so penetrating that it lives in my memory through the lapse of a quarter of a century. But Nebraska sleeps in winter, sleeps until spring, when her fields awaken and her towns and villages, with their pretty homes, bordered by brick walks and ornamented by gardens, bloom with purple lilacs, white snowballs and red and pink peonies.

For each of these and a thousand similar pictures, enshrined in memory, I have a name, a place and a dear friend. There were many of these friends and they told me much. They told of former days, how the country looked before the hands of Czech immigrants uncovered all this beauty and prepared it for those who came after them. But they did not say that to build up those wide fields of corn made the hands callous and hard. They did not tell how much human sweat moistened the soil before the little, primitive dwellings, where pioneers found scanty shelter against cold, rain and summer's heat, were transformed into comfortable, roomy and prosperous homes of later times. That which was accomplished by human hands is

visible. But nobody sees and perhaps ever did see the tears of women who came with their husbands from civilized lands to the frontier. How much longing, silent weeping, immeasurable sacrifice is buried in the soil of Nebraska's fields and foundations of her towns and villages! What various hardships and sufferings were endured by our people who came from Czechoslovakia, people of courageous hopes, boundless patience and great and beautiful dreams, — who of us now can appreciate and who can believe? Who, in this day of speed and hurry can vision, even in imagination, all the trials and disappointments out of which grew present comforts and prosperity? The first Czech who came to Nebraska, if he could return to his first home there, could not believe it himself.

To him, the first, the second, third, and tenth, to their wives, their first children — those children who were not called to school by bells in fine, modern buildings in every mile, as are called the children of their descendants, — the history of Czechs in Nebraska is dedicated. They were its originators, just as they were the originators of this earthly paradise — Nebraska. Without them Nebraska could not have been what it is today — a state so largely Czech, to which every Czech heart turns as to another home. It was they who built up almost entirely Czech towns, established large Czech settlements, and hospitably opened out their arms to their compatriots, — and they, in turn, founded homes among the Czechs of Nebraska and reared their sons and daughters in such manner that all the Czechs in the United States know and esteem them.

Materially and culturally Nebraska is the pride of Czechs in this country. Our gratitude is due the Czech pioneers and their wives who did not leave our state in those early days when misfortune and apparently insurmountable difficulties assailed them, but who stayed and surmounted them and conquered. Thanks be to them for all they have done, whereby this beautiful book, which they have lived and live and will live on in their descendants, could be written.

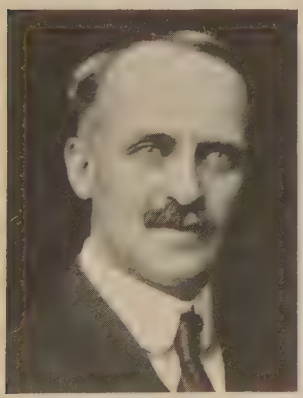
Los Angeles, Calif., April 1927. BOŽENA PAVLÍKOVÁ.

Nebraska Czechs as I Have Known Them

By Addison E. Sheldon

Superintendent of Nebraska State Historical Society

In a log school house on Turkey Creek, about three miles southwest of Wilber, I began to know Nebraska Czechs. I was seventeen years old. I had a secondgrade certificate entitling me to teach school and I was trying it out for the first time in my life upon about twenty children, half of them Czech. How well I remember their keen, hungry, curious minds. How the entire school, including the teacher, would burst into laughter at some odd break in their use of the English language. How fascinating the difference between the Slavic mind and the Anglo Saxon, as they worked side by side on home-made benches in the mud-chinked log cabin.



Addison E. Sheldon

It was a cold winter with deep snow. When a few bright days came most of my Czech children would be absent from school. When I enquired the reason it was always the same, — they were kept out by their parents to husk corn. This was typical of the Czechs in those early-settlement days. Most of those in Saline county lived in dugouts driven into the side of a ravine. They worked with feverish haste to get ahead in the new land. They wanted the children to get an English education, but corn husking took precedence over everything. Those were hard pioneer days for us all. But the Czech immigrant knew how to work harder and live on less than any other American-born settler. For that reason he fell

into the severe condemnation of many of his neighbors whose ancestors had come to America a hundred years earlier or more.

If I were to put upon the printed page some of the epithets applied to these people from Central Europe, with their hard living, their queer customs, their joyous and sometimes hilarious beer-hall festivals, their old-country music, with its wild notes of passion, despair and defiance, their strange, intense language with its jarring Z's and R's, — by their prairie and backwoods American neighbors, in the seventies and eighties, I greatly fear it would not add to the growing cordiality between this group and the rest of us. So I merely refer to those things which mark the early contact between the Czech and the Anglo Saxon in Nebraska.

But for all of that — for me and my three hundred years of Yankee ancestry — there was a challenge and a charm in these people. They certainly were different from the rest of us. They were more than different. They were hungry to know the new things in the new land. I had some Czech school-children who were dull, but I do not remember one who was not eager. And many of them had minds of extraordinary power and clearness. They were sensitive in so many ways, to a picture, to a story, to a sentiment. I learned to know and to love the characteristics of these people in spite of all the contrast between them and those of my own blood.

Later I learned to know the Czech settlers on the frontier in Dawes and Box Butte counties. Those were the times that tried men's souls, in the fierce drouths of the nineties. Whole companies of frontier homesteaders forsook their sunburnt claims and moved back toward the rainfall. The Czech settlers stuck about as long and as well as any of us, but many of them in the settlements at Lawn and around Dunlap reluctantly yielded their land-hungry hopes of a homestead and returned to the Czech settlements further east. But here again I came to know the Czech when put to a severe test, and recognized his sturdy fibre.

Almost fifty years of Nebraska life have passed since I first began to know the Nebraska Czechs. In those years I have come to know them in many ways. I have known them as they come in growing numbers every year to the state university, the chosen students from a great bread-winning constituency. I have known them in the halls of the state legislature, in state conventions, in music chambers, where the violin, the horn and the piano blend the wonderful strains of the great Slavic composers into a music that forever captivates the soul of man, no matter where he is born. I have known them in their own language and literature, an imperfect knowledge on my part, yet one that has given me some measure of comparison of the literary genius of Czechoslovakia with that of Germany, France, Spain, Italy and the British Islands. I have found the Czech in Europe and in America a fellow human being, with a great world of ideas and feelings different from mine, yet full of attractions and enjoyments.

So I welcome this book which undertakes to record the early annals of the sixty thousand Czech people in Nebraska and preserve for the Nebraska that will be centuries and centuries from now the heroic stories, the fortitude, the endurance and the names of these Nebraska Czech pioneers. It is a fine contribution that their little land, swept by wars and oppressed by despotism through a thousand years, has made to this great American Republic, and especially to this central star in that Republic, our commonwealth of Nebraska. We shall value this contribution as the decades pass by. The children and children's children of these Slavic soldiers of the American frontier will search these pages intensely for the stories which they tell. And when Nebraska has endured as many centuries from its founding as New England has now endured from Plymouth Rock, an intermarried and interwoven population upon these plains shall rejoice with a full, broad and comprehensive patriotism in the fact that Nebraska established peace and helpfulness between hostile nations from the Old World upon her soil many years before those nations in the Old World united in an enduring world peace.

Introduction

Nebraska, of all our states, contains the largest number of Czech farmers of the first generation (born in Europe), or one-fifth of all who live in the United States. This is in accordance with the report of the Immigration Commission. One of the results of the World War (1914—1918) is the Czechoslovak Republic. Of late years Bohemians are being called, more and more, Czechs. (Checkh is the way it sounds in their language). However, to call a Bohemian a Czechoslovak is misleading, the Slovaks being another branch of Slavs. Bohemians are Czechs of Czechoslovakia. Moravians are practically Czechs, so we class them with the latter. At the present time there are almost no other inhabitants of Czechoslovakia living in our state except probably a few Slovaks in Omaha.

When immigrants from Bohemia and Moravia came to Nebraska, and for many years prior thereto, these countries were a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Geographically they formed the northwestern corner of it, being bounded by Saxony on the northwest, Bavaria on the southwest, Prussian Silesia on the northeast, Austria and Hungary on the south and east. The World War changed these boundaries, just as it changed the former crownlands of Bohemia (Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia) into a portion of the Czechoslovak Republic. This Republic now comprises Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, Ruthenia and a portion of Silesia. It is bounded on the northwest by Saxony, on the southwest by Bavaria, on the south by Austria and Hungary, on the northeast by Poland and on the east by Roumania.

In the first century B. C. a Celtic people called Boii settled in Bohemia. They were compelled by the Germans to emigrate and Bohemia was then occupied by the warlike tribe of Marcomanni, who moved westward at the time of the great migration of nations. The Slavic immigrants ap-

THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC.
SCALE 90 MILES TO 1 INCH
Czechoslovakia
BRESLAU
DRESDEN
PRAHA
BRNO
BRATISLAVA
BUDAPEST
CRACOW
LWOW
MISHOLCZ
DEBRECZEN
Upper Silesia
Low Tatra
Subcarpathian Ruthenia
The Alps
GREAT BRITAIN
GERMANY
POLAND
RUSSIA
AUSTRIA
HUNGARY
JUGOSLAVIA
ROUMANIA
SPAIN

peared in the sixth century and called themselves Czechs (Čechs) because their leader was so named (Čech). Therefore the name Bohemia, given to that country by Latin historians, is antiquated and geographically and racially incorrect, for it is derived from the name of a Celtic people. Besides, in more modern times, the word Bohemian is used also to describe artist life in its irresponsible and even immoral phases. It has its origin in the French word bohéme (gypsy) and uninformed people even look upon Bohemians (Czechs) as possible gypsies. So for one reason and the other, Bohemians prefer to be called Czechs. For a brief period Bohemia formed a part of the great Moravian realm under Svatopluk. The Moravians, also a Slavic people, took their name from the river Morava, the largest river in Moravia. Svatopluk's rule (870—894) was followed by onslaughts of the Hungarians (Maygars) who devastated the country and from 1029 Moravia was united with Bohemia, either as an integral part of that realm, or as a fief ruled by margraves. In 1526 Moravia, with all the other Bohemian lands passed under the rule of the House of Hapsburg.

By the close of the ninth century the princes who ruled the Czechs had been converted to Christianity, mainly introduced by the Germans, while the Moravians were converted by the apostles Cyril and Methodius of the Eastern Church. In the tenth century Bohemia was under the rule of the dukes of Přemysl, who acknowledged the overlordship of the kings of Germany. These dukes or princes elevated themselves into the rank of kings by the close of the twelfth century and were thus recognized by the German sovereigns, their state forming part of the Holy Roman Empire of the Germans. Under King Otokar II (1253—1278) Bohemia for a brief period was one of the most powerful realms of Europe. His sway extended from the river Elbe to the shores of the Adriatic. His son Václav (Wenceslaus) II became also King of Poland. The Přemysl dynasty ended in 1306, with the death of Václav III and from that date to 1439 the house of Luxemburg was in power. During this time the Hussite movement began

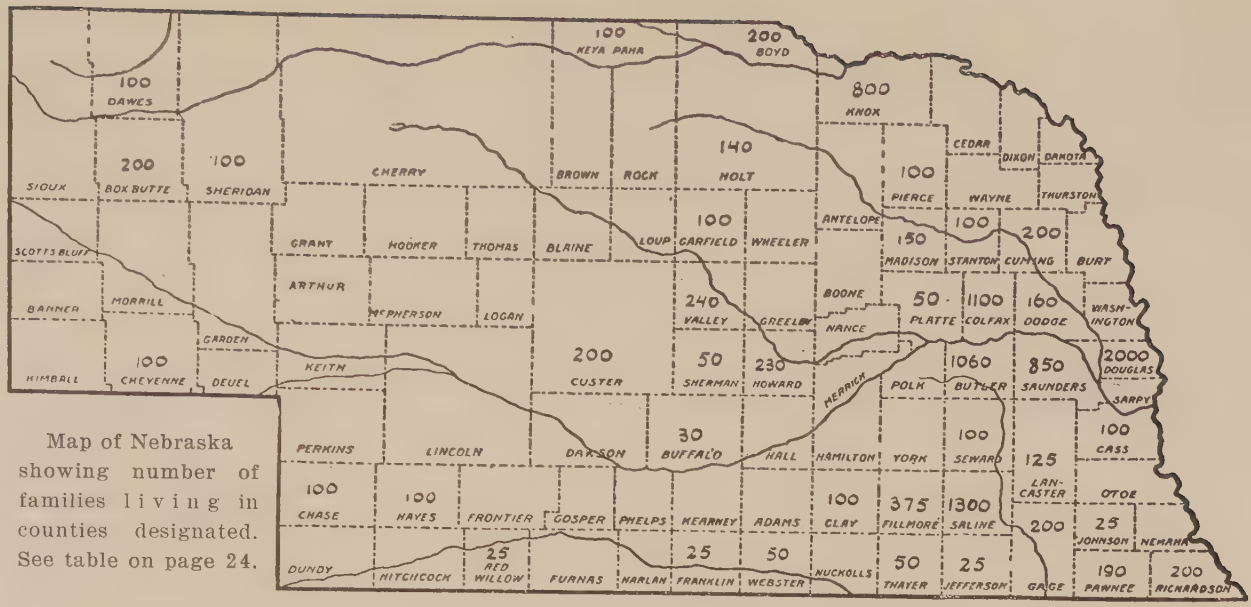
and a large part of the succeeding history is concerned with religious struggle, as described in the chapter on religion. In 1620 Bohemia and Moravia became vassals of the Hapsburgs and remained under their rule until October 28, 1918, when the Czechoslovak Republic was born.

As stated in the chapter on religion, few countries have been so torn by religious wars. Bohemia was a bloody battleground in the Thirty Years' War, which ended where it began, in Prague. It is estimated that the population of about 3,000,000 was reduced to 800,000, and the civilization of that country suffered a blow from which it never fully recovered. And that civilization was of no small importance, for as early as 1348 the University of Prague was founded, at a time when universities existed only in England, France and Italy. It was one of the greatest seats of learning in all Europe and its founding was followed by a Golden Age of Czech literature.

Bohemia suffered greatly from wars once more when her area again became a chief battleground, this time in the struggle between Empress Maria Theresa and Frederick the Great, who succeeded in despoiling the kingdom of much of its dependent territory. The political revolution of 1848 improved the condition of Czechs somewhat, but they were never fully reconciled until their country was freed from the yoke of an alien and despotic government.

The first president of the new republic is Thomas Garrigue Masaryk and the first prime minister Edward Beneš. Both are still in office and both are accounted among the ablest statesmen of Europe. Under their guidance the Czechoslovak Republic is rapidly assuming a prosperous condition and an important position among the countries of Europe.

Bohemia and Moravia are rich agriculturally, although their industries are many and varied. However, it may be said that the people inclined towards farming are in the majority, but the country is densely populated. This fact and another, — Austro-Hungarian militarism and despotism, which the democratic and peace-loving Czechs de-



Map of Nebraska showing number of families living in counties designated. See table on page 24.

tested — were the two chief factors why so many emigrated to this country.

As to the number of Czechs in Nebraska, the census of 1920 says there are 15,818 persons, men and women, born in Czechoslovakia, living here, or 51,000, including the first American-born generation. However, some Czechs are enrolled as Austrians. Miss Šárka Hrbková, in her article "Bohemians in Nebraska", (published in Volume 19 of the Nebraska State Historical Society's publications) says: "Of the 539,392 Bohemians according to the census of 1910 it is probably safe to say that one-eighth reside in Nebraska." That would mean 67,676. Dr. John A. Habenicht, who at one time lived in Nebraska, wrote a history of Bohemians in the United States (Nebraska included of course), which history was published in 1904. He computed the population at about 57,000. Dr. Habenicht's distribution, as to counties, practically holds good today, there having been no marked changes. It is possible that there are more Bohemians in some counties and less in others. If the exact number could have been reached, the effort would have been made. However, the correct figures would be given from certain counties, incorrect from others, and none at all, no response, had from still others. Dr. Habenicht's distribution is as follows:

	Families
Boyd County	200
Box Butte County	200
Buffalo County	120
Butler County	1060
Cass County	100
Chase County	100
Cheyenne County	100
Clay County	100
Colfax County	1100
Cuming County	200
Custer County	200
Dawes County	100
Dodge County	160
Douglas County	2000
Fillmore County	375
Gage County	200
Hayes County	100
Holt County	140
Howard County	230

Keya Paha County	100
Knox County	800
Lancaster County	125
Madison County	150
Pawnee County	190
Pierce County	100
Richardson County	200
Saline County	1300
Saunders County	850
Sheridan County	100
Sherman County	50
Valley County	240
	10990
Scattering	500
	11490 families,

which, multiplied by five, as an average, makes 57,450. Dr. Habenicht does not take into consideration the settlements in Franklin, Garfield, Jefferson, Johnson, Platte, Red Willow, Seward, Stanton, Thayer and Webster Counties, which brings the figure to 60,000 or more. Czechs are found all over the state, in and about ninety rural communities and Omaha.

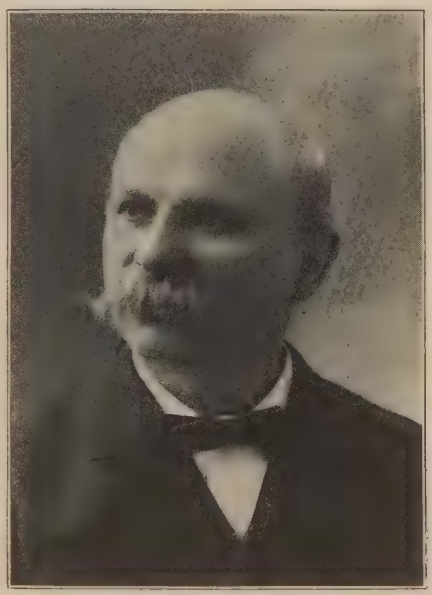
At the time our state was being settled by Czechs, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota (to name but a few states in the same section) also were open to settlers. Why then, did they come to Nebraska in such large numbers? Several forces combined to bring this about. One was the homestead law, the principal cause. A settler in Nebraska in 1854 could take 160 acres and after living on it six months, buy it from the United States for $1.25 an acre. This was called pre-emption. In 1862 the free homestead law was passed and went into effect in 1863. Under this law a settler could take 160 acres for but $14.00 filing fee, and have it free by living upon it five years. In 1873 the timber claim act was passed. Under it a settler could get 160 acres by planting 10 acres of it to trees and taking care of them for eight years. All three of these laws were in force from 1873 to 1891, and under them a settler could in a few years get 480 acres of land. Another reason was that Czechs are, in the main, an agricultural people and Czechoslovakia, like all old-world countries, is overpopulated, so its soil-loving but

soil-starved inhabitants flocked to our shores in quest of fertile, virgin land. This applies to those who came to the middle west. The first Czech rural settlements in this country were formed in Wisconsin and the next in Iowa (as to the middle west) and the first Nebraska pioneers came from either of those states. They were followed by friends and relatives in this and the mother country.

Czech newspapers were a great force in aiding immigrants to find new homes. These papers in those days (and some have yet) had a department devoted to communications from subscribers, and such communications often dealt with the subject of good locations. Their importance, as a lever, can easily be appreciated, when we consider that their readers knew little or no English. The history of the counties most heavily settled by Czechs shows that they began coming here between 1865 and 1880. Prior to 1871 there was no Czech paper here and the leading journal was the weekly Slavie, Racine, Wisconsin, published by Charles Jonas (Jonáš), considered the most distinguished Czech-American of his day and likened, for that reason, to Carl Schurz, the most eminent German-American. The first pioneers wrote letters to friends, or for publication in the Slavie, for the purpose of attracting others, and it was but natural that immigrants, not knowing English, placed utmost reliance in their own people and readily followed them into newly-established colonies. Colonization clubs also were formed. The one in Chicago, in the late sixties, was called "Česká Osada" (Czech Colony) and numbered over five hundred members. In the early seventies a club of this kind existed in Omaha, called "Slovania" with Fr. B. Zdrůbek (then editor of Pokrok Západu) president and V. L. Vodička, secretary. The object of both clubs was to find land for settlement, through investigating committees.

In 1871 Edward Rosewater founded a Czech paper in Omaha, the Pokrok Západu (Progress of the West), although at first it was more in the nature of a land advertising sheet. It was supported by the Burlington and Missouri and Union Pacific railroad companies and the reading matter was arranged by V. L. Vodička. The paper was

set up in Iowa City, Iowa, where the Czech weekly Slovan Americký was being published by John Bárta Letovský, and mailed (free) out of Omaha to whatever addresses of prospective settlers could be gathered. It may be mentioned here that a German paper "Beobachter am Missouri" was published under the same circumstances. In October 1872 Mr. Joseph Michal (born in Lhota, near Nákří, May 5, 1847, came to La Crosse, Wis. in 1867, to Omaha in 1872 and in 1926 still living, one of the band of mail carriers when Omaha had but eight) began to work as compositor on the Beobachter. He ordered the first Czech type and a Miss Otradovský of Racine, Wis. was first compositor, Mr. Michal editing the paper (Pokrok Západu). It was then published once in two weeks and sent free. In 1872 the Czech paper "Amerikán" (American) of Racine, Wis. was sold to the Pokrok Západu and until August 13, 1873, the paper was called "Pokrok Západu a Amerikán". (Progress Of The West And American) then changed again to Pokrok Západu. About 1874 it was changed to a weekly and the subscription price set at $1.00 per year, by which time it contained eight pages. Mr. Michal was succeeded as editor by a Mr. Pražák, son of a rabbi from County Plzeň, Bohemia, who, however, could not write Czech well and was editor also of the Beobachter. He was succeeded by Václav Šnajdr, who later for many years published a Czech weekly "Den nice Novověku" in Cleveland, O. Šnajdr was succeeded by F. B. Zdrůbek, in 1873, later for many years editor of the



Edward Rosewater

Chicago daily Svornost. In 1875 Joseph Novinský took charge. By this time the railroad companies had withdrawn their support and Rosewater desired to sell the paper. In March 1876 John Rosický became editor and in 1877 bought the paper. The early history of the Pokrok Západu is given here in some detail, because it undoubtedly was a very great aid in bringing many Czechs to Nebraska.

Edward Rosewater was a Czech Jew, born in Bukovany, Bohemia, in 1841, died in Omaha, 1906. He came to this country in 1854 and to Omaha in 1863, its first perma-

John Rosický

nent inhabitant of Bohemian birth. His efforts and foresight in helping to get immigrants who have had a valuable part in building up the state deserve due credit, for while he could not edit the paper, he bore the burden of finding men to do it. His name is permanently enrolled in the history of our state as one of its founders.

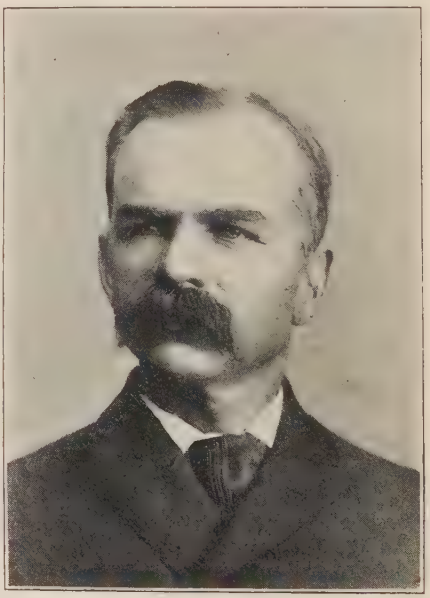
John Rosický, who published and edited the Pokrok Západu until 1900, made it so forceful a journal that for many years after people still associated his name with it. He was born in Humpolec, Bohemia, December 17, 1845 and died in Omaha, April 2, 1910. He possessed the quali-

ties of leadership and he loved his people. In those years of homesteads and cheap railroad lands, he vigorously urged his countrymen, week in and week out, to take advantage of those opportunities. He counselled and helped them in every way he could, not only about settling on farms, but also directing those who wanted to establish mercantile or artisan careers in newly-formed towns. This he did personally or through his paper and thus came into contact with so many that Mr. Thomas Čapek, of New York City, an eminent authority on Czech history and social conditions in this country, says in his book "Fifty Years of Czech Letters in America": "John Rosický was the best known Czech in the northwest. He deserves great credit for Nebraska being so largely Czech, for he devoted his most productive years to that state." The beautiful monument, standing on a knoll near the entrance to the Bohemian National Cemetery in Omaha, bought by subscription and dedicated to him by his people of the middle west, is their lasting tribute to his memory.

Václav L. Vodička (born in Těchonice, Bohemia, September 14, 1844, died in Omaha, March 15, 1917) came to Omaha in 1868. From 1877 to 1885 he was a land agent for the Burlington & Missouri Railroad Company. By that time most of the good homesteads had been taken and railroad lands were the next best thing. The Burlington offered special inducements to immigrants, for people did not like to settle far away from the Missouri river. Settlers on this company's land were refunded freight charges paid on immigrant movables and passenger fares paid for their families. Besides that, a discount of twenty percent was given on the first payment applied on the principal. This discount, called a "premium for improvements" was allowed purchasers who broke up a certain portion of the land within two years from date of purchase and continued its cultivation until the premium had been applied. It paid all of the first installment of the principal due in four years from purchase, and a part of the second installment due in five years from date of purchase. No other railroad company in Nebraska offered any special inducements.

What wonder then that Mr. Vodička, who was of irreproachable honesty, who was one of them and spoke their language, in whom they had the utmost faith, helped to settle many Czechs and established several colonies?

When a colony was effected, even though it consisted of a mere handful of pioneers, its numbers were soon augmented by friends and relatives, in this and the mother country. Personal letters and communications published in Czech papers, plus the attraction of cheap, good lands, produced a veritable influx all through the seventies. Mr. F. J. Sadílek, Wilber, Nebraska, a pioneer and competent authority, esti mates that up to 1880 fully three-fourths of the entire number of Czech immigrants came to our state. Few had the means to pay even the moderate prices asked, but they were eager to brave severe hardships in a strange, unsettled country, and toiled and suffered to gain their heart's desire. Not all had been farmers by calling. A large percentage had previously had various trades, but they saw a better future on farms. However, their trade was often a help to them and others, for mechanics and artisans were scarce. Pioneering is hard at any time, more than doubly so for people who do not speak the prevailing language. But they persevered and conquered. They helped to make our state a garden spot, they provided for their families and their old age, and today their children and children's children are found in all ranks of farming, business and professional life—some even have become prominent artists.



Václav L. Vodička

Bartoš Bittner, a Czech-American writer (born 1861 in Milaveč, Bohemia, came to this country in 1884 and died in Chicago, May 1, 1912) wrote the following in praise of Czech pioneers of Nebraska:

With empty hands you came to wilderness uncharted—
Lo, gaze upon it now, O pioneers brave-hearted.
From Father of Waters west to Rocky Mountains' base,
Prosperity's sweet streams those prairies grace.

You triumphed over hardships, weary and heartbreaking,
None censures you today for joyful pride you are taking,
In your fair handiwork, which far and wide you view,
Instead, success we wish—success to you.

(Translated by Libbie Breuer Scholten).

The Vanguard of the Czech Pioneers

As far as is known, the first Czech to enter Nebraska was Joseph Francl, who travelled overland in 1854, on his way to the California gold fields. In that year the territory of Nebraska was organized and embraced what are now the states of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. In that year too the city of Omaha was founded.

Joseph Francl

Joseph Francl was born in Svojšice, County Čáslav, Bohemia, in 1824. His father owned a brewery and glass factory. Francl studied music in the Prague Conservatory and later, in partnership with a Mr. Marschner, directed an orchestra and thus made many concert tours through Bohemia, Austria and Germany. About 1851 he came to this country and about 1852 he married in Wisconsin Miss Antonia Procháska, who had emigrated there with her parents. Mrs. Francl was born February 17, 1834 in Kutná Hora, Bohemia, and died in Crete, Nebraska, November 21, 1911.

Francl kept a diary during his trip and his son Fred, now living in Crete, permitted that same be used for the foundation of the account here given.

Joseph Francl set out from Watertown, Wisconsin, April 18, 1854, with four companions, by ox teams, leaving behind his young wife and small son Fred, for he hoped to find riches for them in the gold fields. He travelled with Germans, three brothers, Gustavus, Adolphus and Friederickus Roseng von Stande, born on the island of Rugen in Germany, and Heinrich Merrman. Wisconsin and eastern Iowa were already somewhat settled, so they did not meet with any unusual experiences, aside from seeing large flocks of wild game and many elk and deer. They reached the Mississippi river on April 25th, at Dubuque, which city then had 10,000 inhabitants. Travelling on, they came to Iowa City, where they found a German brewery and refreshed themselves. The assembled company argued various questions pertaining to politics in Europe, for the Russian-Turkish war was raging. They found a Bohemian named Mudroch, from Malín, Bohemia, who had been for a time employed by a painter named Richter in Kutná Hora. And a Germanized Bohemian, a Dr. Adolph, who sold them salve to use against the cutting western winds. They proceeded along, passing the towns of Marengo and Newton. Their provisions consisted of 250 pounds hardtack, 150 pounds ham, 50 pounds butter, 50 pounds sugar, 30 pounds coffee, 10 quarts vinegar, 20 pounds beans, 10 pounds peas, spices, axes, chains, rope, augers, saws, 20 pounds gunpowder, 40 pounds lead and shot, — and it was all too scanty for so long a trip.

Francl mentions that they made and placed in the river a trap of willow twigs and thus caught several hundred pounds of fish in a short time. To prove this was not impossible, he relates that he had seen in the Rock River, twelve miles south of Watertown, when the water was low, so many fish of various kinds that one lay next the other as far as eye could see. Old inhabitants told him that eight or ten years before that, when they crossed the river in a wagon, the fish flew about on all sides, where the wheels struck them, like so many shavings.

In Fort Des Moines (now Des Moines) they refreshed themselves in the tavern and set out again. The country was

becoming more sparsely settled, the farms being twenty and thirty miles distant from each other. They saw a prairie fire and Francl has this to say about it: "I would like to describe the effect of a prairie fire at night, when it is cloudy or the night dark, but I cannot, words fail me to depict what I feel. It is a novel, magnificent, immense picture, which deserves the very ablest description, it I only could do it. A fiery band, reaching farther than the eye can see, a great quantity of smoke, and a terrifying glare, all the while silence reigns, for those who look on do not venture to speak. It is something incomparably beautiful."

On June 3 they reached a hill in a small grove about three miles from Council Bluffs, Iowa, which town then, as he says, had 6,000 inhabitants and was a busy place, for emigrants outfitted themselves there. Apparently they did not stop there, but went seven miles south to the St. Mary settlement, across the river from Bellevue, where the ferry boat, owned by Peter A. Sarpy, plied back and forth. Sarpy was for more than thirty years Indian trader at Bellevue and Sarpy County is named for him. Francl says:

"Thank God we have made the 700 miles without misfortune. St. Mary consists of but a few houses. The state of Iowa is over 600 miles long, that is from Dubuque to Council Bluffs, 50,000 miles in area and contains 50,000 inhabitants. From Newton to the Missouri river we saw quantities of elk horns, some were 7 feet long and weighed about 30 pounds. We saw a drove of over 173 elk. They are about as large as a cow, of more slender body, of lighter color than deer, and keep only to the high prairies. We saw deer at streams. It may be understood that we did not suffer hunger, for we shot all the small game we could use. There is one kind of snipe, about as large as a medium-sized chicken, with bill about four inches long, that is easy to kill. They sell for three dollars in the large east-

Wagon train in a circle

ern markets. We roasted several and at last grew weary of them. The valley here is beautiful. How the water in the great river glistens and what a strange, crooked course the strong current makes for itself. How green are the grasses in this rich valley and what a fertile soil here awaits the hands of those who will cultivate it. Emigrants to California are preparing here for their journey and resting after their trip so far. Otherwise all is silence, only grazing horses and domestic animals are to be seen."

Here Francl first saw western trappers, whom he describes thus:

"These people are hired by fur traders for two years or for as long as their journey requires. They go in boats which the steamer pulls up the river against the current as far as it can, then they fasten their boats to the shore and proceed further in small boats to their destination, where they shoot, trap and trade with Indians. They exchange beads, calico, provisions etc. for tanned hides. Three large boats, filled with tanned and raw hides and pelts, await the steamboat here, to load it with their goods and return again for more. These trappers appear to me like lunatics. At least they could never walk the streets of a European town in their attire. From the remnants hanging in tatters on their bodies, it is difficult to say whether their clothing is cotton, linen or woolen. Wherever you look, you can see the owner's dark hide, the rest is covered with skins of wild animals. The trapper's face has not seen water during the many hundred miles of his travels. His hat is made of rough, raw buffalo skin, adorned by a fox or wolf tail. Some have attached in front the horns of deer or antelope. When the trapper's trousers give out, he takes a small buffalo hide, cuts it through the mouth, dries it by fire and smoke, and behold a pair of trousers, which he simply pulls on, the skins of the extremeties serving for suspenders. However, his boots make up for the rest, for they are quite handsome, embroidered by Indian women with beads and ornamented by a long fine leather fringe. They are very comfortable. These trappers are an uneducated, Godless sort of people, and most of them are Frenchmen from Can-

ada. There is an abundance of game, but these trappers gamble away not only their money but even the last piece of decent clothing, if they happen to have it, and then go back to hunt again."

In the afternoon of the day of their arrival to St. Mary a wagon train consisting of 36 persons, 160 oxen and 30 horses arrived. It belonged to John F. Kinney, who was later a prominent Nebraska citizen. Mr. Kinney was born in New Haven, N. Y. He held public office in Iowa for some years and in 1853 was appointed justice of the supreme court of Utah. In the spring of 1854 he set out with his family on a trip 1500 miles long, for Salt Lake City, to take up his office. In 1856 he returned to Iowa, in 1857 he settled in Nebraska City and lived there with the exception of the year 1860, when again he was justice of the supreme court of Utah. He died in Nebraska City and it is interesting to note that he helped lay out the city of Beatrice, which was named for his eldest daughter. Inasmuch as both money and provisions were beginning to give out, Francl and his companions were glad to sell what they had left and their teams too to Mr. Kinney and enter his employ, Francl as cook, the rest as drivers. In the kitchen, one cook baked the bread, another carried water, another prepared the meats, another had the coffee, tea and dried fruits to look after and the fifth washed dishes. They were to get their pay after reaching Salt Lake City. The ferry carried across their train which now consisted of 28 wagons and 198 horses and oxen, and Francl stood on Nebraska territory soil. That evening a company of 27 Omaha Indians called and after their departure, Mr. Kinney missed a fine dog. The captain of the wagon train asked for volunteers to go to the Indian village, situated five miles west of Bellevue, in quest of the dog. Twenty-four men came forward and so the next day the party set

Indian hunting buffalo

out on horses and in wagons, well armed. Francl writes about that episode thus:

"We came within ten feet of the village. About forty Indians advanced toward us, armed with bows and arrows, tomahawks, pikes, stone hammers and a few had old guns and swords, but they would not let us enter their village. Their chief crossed his arms on his breast and made us a speech, saying that the dog had been eaten, but that he would give us a horse instead. The Omaha Indians are of fine, tall bodies. They paint their faces red and yellow. They smear mud on their hair, to make it stiff and upright. From the nape of the neck to the forehead it stands out like a rooster's tail, the rest is clipped close. Their chief has a different style of head dress. Here the Indians begin to go about naked, except for a small apron. Some wear buffalo robes, with designs painted on them, sometimes embroidered with beads. Their moccasins are of elk or deer skin. Occasionally an Indian gets or trades for a pair of trousers, but he does not know that the seat is to be worn too. He cuts it out entirely and about all that is left are strings hanging from his sides. Each Indian carried a board about six inches wide and two feet long, pointed at the lower end. In the center is fastened a piece of glass from a mirror and the owner admires himself therein, adjusting his hair and complexion.

"They would not let us enter their village all together, for they feared us. So we divided into three parts, laid aside our weapons and half the Indians accompanied us as guard. We did not see any women. Their village consists of twenty to thirty huts, made thus: Eight or ten long poles are arranged in a rounded pyramid, tied firmly at the top, and covered with tanned buffalo hides. The interior contains nothing but animal skins, which serve for a bed."

Their quest was all in vain, for the chief made no mention of the horse and they returned empty-handed. That evening more red-skinned visitors appeared and the Indian agent requested them to sing and dance, which they did. One barked like a dog, another mewed like a cat, another howled like a wolf, another imitated a bear, etc.

On June 14 they set forth across Nebraska. The distance between the wagons was thirty feet, the whole train was a mile in length. They stopped at the mission, where they found a well, and supplied themselves with water. They reached the Elkhorn river with no adventures to speak of and at this point the notes written by Francl have been lost. The continuation is taken up somewhere in what is now central Nebraska, for we read of the Lucky Ford and Wood rivers. Their way lay along the real western plains now, where Indians and wild animals threatened. Every evening all the wagons were drawn in a circle and the stock driven inside. This was commonly done, not only to keep the stock from wandering off, but as a protection against Indians. The third day after leaving Lucky Ford river they found a body partly devoured by wolves. It belonged to a man who had been driving 1500 sheep to California. The Pawnee Indians had taken 400 and then killed the owner. Mr. Kinney's people buried him. Some time at this stage of the journey, Mrs. Kinney gave birth to a boy, in Nebraska Center, on the Wood river. The buffalo range began here and they saw many come to Buffalo Creek, to drink. Francl thus describes a buffalo hunt:

"We see our half-breed Indian, who is going along as hunter and interpreter, pursue the buffalo. When two yards away from him, he fires four times. Suddenly the animal turns on him and the Indian flees before him. The buffalo stops and the Indian approaches, turning him in our direction. The horse is weakening, for he has been hard at it for an hour and a half. A fresh horse is procured and the hunt goes on until the second horse is exhausted. The buffalo speeds toward the creek about half a mile distant. He hides in the high grass there, but others await him with revolvers. He stands motionless and allows them to shoot. Before a third horse can be brought, the buffalo is

Wagon train fording a stream

six miles away, hidden in the tall grasses on the shores of the creek. It was almost five o'clock before they got him out and stopped him with a rifle-shot in the leg, then they finished him. Both eyes were shot out and he bled from the mouth and sides. He weighed 2000 to 2300 pounds. We roasted and fried part of the meat and then smoked and dried the rest. The dried meat we hung under the wagon covers, to finish drying there. Each evening large droves of buffaloes came to drink, but we did not molest them. The following day, when we were travelling over a flat stretch of country, the captain ordered our train cut in half. There was quite a space between the two divisions. On the south of the road was a little valley where many buffaloes were grazing. Something frightened them, they ran through the division and we counted 2600. They are easy to count, for they follow closely in a line, in a sort of half-trot. The day following that we saw a magnificent sight. If anyone had told me before I had seen buffaloes that so many are in existence, I would not have believed it. On the other side of the river, to the left, was a great open space of prairie covered with buffaloes. As far as eye could reach, nothing but buffaloes. On the horizon great clouds of dust rose upward, where they were stamping around. These all belong to the Indian, they are his wealth. The calves are kept inside the drove, one can see how the old animals crowd together to protect them. This so-called buffalo range is about 130 miles in area."

They saw and killed many rattlesnakes. They met a group of Sioux Indians returning from battle with Pawnees. One carried a sack from which blood was dripping. At length, after much sign language, they made him understand that they wanted to see what he had and he very willingly emptied it. It contained twenty-one scalps of the enemy. Each Indian, says Francl, knows well the scalp he has taken from the head of his victim, and he loves to turn it over in his hands and gloat over it. They reached Fort Laramie, built of sod and containing about twenty soldiers for the protection of emigrants.

On September 2nd, 1854 they reached Salt Lake City,

Utah. Mr. Kinney paid them their wages and Merrman and Francl, with six companions, on horses, set out for California, 800 miles distant, a good deal of the way over deserts. Water was found in each ten miles. They had not taken enough provisions and after a while suffered hunger. They found a poor old ox by the wayside, too weak to go any further and so they killed him. They had no salt, but even as they were famished, the meat was so tough they could not eat it. Francl remarks that he would give a year of his life for a loaf of bread. When their need was greatest, help arrived — a wagon train. The owner gave them food and flour, which they cooked with water and called it soup. This train carried twelve people scalped by Indians. It consisted of 172 men, well armed, who had amused themselves all the way by shooting every Indian they met. No wonder the red men retaliated. From the passengers in this train Francl learned of the Mormon cow affair, which has gone down into Nebraska history as the fore-runner of Indian warfare.

It happened thus:

On the 17th of August, 1854, a party of Mormon emigrants on their way to the Great Salt Lake reached a great camp of thousands of Indians of the Brule, Oglala and Minneconjou bands, the whole Sioux nation on the plains, about eight miles east of Fort Laramie, Wyoming. They were gathered there to receive the goods which the United States had promised to pay them for the road through their land. Behind the Mormon wagons lagged a lame cow driven by a man. When near the Brule Sioux camp something scared her and she ran into the camp. A young Minneconjou, Shooters-In-The-Mist, killed her and his friends helped to eat her. The next day the Mormons complained to Lieutenant Grattan, commander of Fort Laramie, a young man only twenty-one years old, who had had no experience with Indians. On the morning of August 19th he set out with twenty-nine men and two cannon

Red Cloud
Sioux Indian Chief

and conferred with the great chief The Bear, who said he would try to get the young Indian to give himself up. Grattan said if he would not he would fire and The Bear, pointing to the thousands of Indian men, women and children, said: "These are all my people. Young man, you must be crazy." A moment later two cannon and a volley of muskets were fired at the Sioux camp. The Bear was killed. A storm of Sioux bullets and arrows cut down Lieutenant Grattan and his men before they had time to reload their guns. The Sioux camp went wild and scattered over Nebraska, Wyoming and Dakota, urging Indians everywhere to kill the white men and drive them from the country. Thus the Sioux war began. The concensus of opinion has always been that Lieut. Grattan acted foolishly in this matter.

Toward the end of their journey Francl and Merrman travelled alone and although they suffered more or less hardship for lack of provisions, they succeeded in crossing the Sierra mountains. They had no tent and slept on the ground in their blankets, sometimes finding themselves covered with snow.

The notes end here and from several letters, dated in Placerville and Georgetown, California (the last in 1857), we find that luck was against them and they hardly made a living, to say nothing of finding gold.

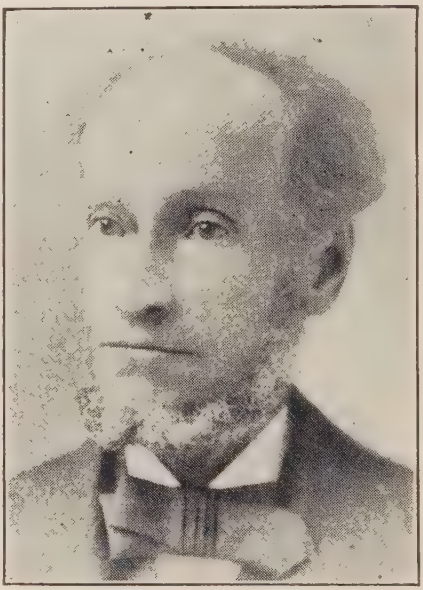
Francl returned to Watertown, where he taught piano and directed a singing society and for several terms was county clerk and clerk of the district court of Manitowoc County. In 1869 he left for St. Joseph, Mo. and went afoot to Nebraska City from there, making entry on a homestead in Saline County. In the fall of that year he settled thereon with his family, a mile south of Crete, near the old Indian ford. In August 1870 he built a store on the corner of 12th and Main streets in Crete and made a well. His corner was a stopping-place for emigrants,

Washing gold

who replenished their supplies for the trip further. However, times were hard, the pioneers had no money, grasshoppers ruined crops and so in 1874 Francl again set out for California, to try his luck. He visited his old haunts, Georgetown and Placerville, but fate again was against him. In the meantime his son Fred had gone to Oregon, where with Theodore Daum he lived near Walla Walla, in the Blue Mountains, there occupied with making cord wood. On March 5, 1875 Francl set out afoot for Walla Walla, arriving in Portland, a distance of 600 miles, April 3rd. He found Fred in the mountains and in November of that year all three set out, on horseback, for California. A few days later Fred turned back, intending to take the boat. On December 3rd Francl and Daum camped near a large spring. Daum walked off a ways to look for the right direction and when he returned half an hour later, Francl had vanished. Daum spent the rest of that day and the next in a fruitless search. The following day he found his way to an Indian settlement, where he was directed to the Klamath Indian Agency and there he met people who accompanied him back to aid him in looking for Francl who was discovered dead, his horse tied to a tree nearby. He had ailed for eleven days, had eaten nothing and part of the time was delirious. That and the arduous journey through deep snow had hastened his end. In 1915 his sons Ernest and Joseph searched for his grave, for he had been buried in the cemetery at Fort Klamath, but in vain. His sons are: Fred (Crete, Neb.), George (Los Angeles, Cal.), Ernest (Crete), and Joseph (San Francisco, Cal.) and his daughters: Mrs. Clara Segelke (Beatrice, Neb.) and Mrs. Helen Jeništa (Rock Island, Ill.), all living at date of writing.

As far as is known, the next Czech to enter Nebraska, and the first to become a permanent settler, was Charles Culek. Later he spelled his name Zulek. It is probable that English-speaking friends called it Kulek, and as the letter C in Czech has the sound of ts, pronouncing it Zulek came a little nearer to the true sound. Culek was born in Podmoklany, County of Chotěboř, Bohemia, June 23, 1822. He lived for a time in Germany, where he married a German maiden.

Then he lived in Hungary, later in Bohemia and in 1854 he came to this country, to Freeport, Illinois. There he became acquainted with Germans, with whom in 1856 he set out for Nebraska and came to Arago, a little town in Richardson County, on the Missouri River, August 27, 1856. At that time there was a German settlement there. He took a claim four miles from the town of Humboldt. The nearest trading point was St. Joseph, Mo., where at first he used to walk for provisions. These he carried on his back and when his burden became too heavy, he would set down a portion, carry the rest, then walk back for the first part. Thus he continued along the distance of seventy-five miles each way. Travel between Arago and St. Joseph was by boat. Old settlers recount that as many as four boats were anchored at the landing at a time. There was an Indian reservation in Richardson County and the red men visited Culek's family, his children played with theirs. Culek was known among his countrymen far and wide. All of those who came after him to Richardson County turned to him for advice and help, and almost all at first worked for him. The first house he built, of stone, is still standing under a hill, near the Nemaha river. Culek or Zulek died in Humboldt on May 17, 1896. His son and daughter live in Los Angeles, Calif., the other daughter in Humboldt.



Charles Culek

As far as known, the next are L. A. Schlesinger and Joseph Horský.

Libor Alois Schlesinger was born October 28, 1806 in Ústí nad Orlicí, Bohemia. He participated in the political revolution of 1848 and was arrested for inciting revolt. He was elected member of the City Council and was set free, but kept under surveillance. He came to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the latter part of 1856, thence via Sioux City to what is now Washington County, to the Omaha Indian reservation, sixty miles north of Omaha, where he took a homestead in the spring of 1857. On October 25, 1860 he went by team to Denver, reaching there December 3rd, and thereafter freighted between Omaha and Denver. In 1865 he settled on a homestead near Denver, in 1876 retired to that city, where he died February 26, 1893. His descendants live in Denver.

L. A. Schlesinger

Joseph Horský followed Schlesinger. He was born in Borovnice near Kostelec nad Orlicí, Bohemia, in 1806, and came to Linn County, Iowa, in 1856. In 1859 Horský and his sons travelled by covered wagon to Pike's Peak, where gold had been found, but returned three months later to Iowa. Soon thereafter he moved with his family to a claim he had taken in Washington County, Nebraska. In 1863 he moved to Helena, Montana, where he died in January 1900, and where his descendants live.

After these four men, as far as is known, the next to come was Frank Walla. Sometime in the early sixties, as recorded in the history of Cuming County, Mr. Walla had left his home in Wisconsin on an exploring trip, during which he visited the Elkhorn Valley in Nebraska. Upon his return home he told relatives and friends about that valley and in 1864 the first Czech (being his sister Anna with her German husband Gottlieb Schlecht) arrived in Cuming County. About that time Václav Tuček settled in Omaha.

In that same year John Heřman and Robert J. Shary (Šáry) settled in Arago. In that year perhaps, but certainly in 1865, Václav Petráček conducted a tavern in Nebraska City. Shary and Heřman too had lived in Wisconsin and Shary had also taken an exploring trip, which resulted in their coming with their families to Nebraska. They established a distillery in Arago and conducted a sort of tavern, for in the following year quite a few transients stopped there, on their way to homesteads. These came via St. Joseph, up the Missouri river, before the Union Pacific Railroad was built. Instances have been recorded of Czech pioneers coming from Wisconsin all the way by ox-team, indeed some afoot, but most of them used either means from the nearest railroad station, in those days scarce and distant enough. When the railroad was built through Nebraska, the problems of transportation were solved to a great degree, for those who came by wagon or afoot had to meet not only the difficulty of transporting provisions, but furniture, implements, etc. also. Transportation facilities by railway smoothed out those difficulties and it is evident from the history of the counties that, beginning with 1867, they were settled more rapidly.

Joseph Horský

Settlement of Counties in Chronological Order

Cuming County – 1864

The first Czech to settle in this county was Mrs. Gottlieb Schlecht (formerly Anna Walla) who was born in the County of Písek, Bohemia. She came with her parents to Wisconsin, and in 1864 with her husband to Nebraska. About June of that year they settled on a homestead six miles northwest of West Point. At date of writing Mrs. Schlecht is living with her children near Tilden, Nebraska.

1865—The Following Came:

The next year saw the arrival of Mrs. Theresa Grewe (then Miss Theresa Klojda), Mrs. Carl Brockman (formerly Miss Mary Klojda) and Mrs. Lobrech Schlecht (formerly Miss Anna Liskovic) and their families. Therefore the first four Czech settlers in Cuming County were women. Mrs. Grewe is living at date of writing, hale and hearty, in the home for old people in West Point, where she was interviewed by Mr. Joseph F. Zajíček, a pioneer and banker of that town, who has furnished the data for the history of this county. She was born in Budějovice, Bohemia, in 1844 and with her parents, two sisters and two brothers emigrated to Wisconsin, to Manitowoc County, in 1852. On May 1st, 1865, she and her sister Mrs. Carl Brockman and Mrs. Lobrech Schlecht, with families, left Wisconsin for Nebraska with three ox-teams. Miss Klojda, then a young woman of twenty-one, drove the cattle they took along and walked the whole distance from Wisconsin to Cuming County, their destination. They arrived there about June 30th, at which time West Point consisted of three houses. One was occupied by John D. Neligh, one by David Neligh and one was vacant. The following month Miss Klojda mar-

ried Mr. Grewe and they settled on a homestead six miles southwest of West Point, where she lived until recently.

1866—The Following Came:

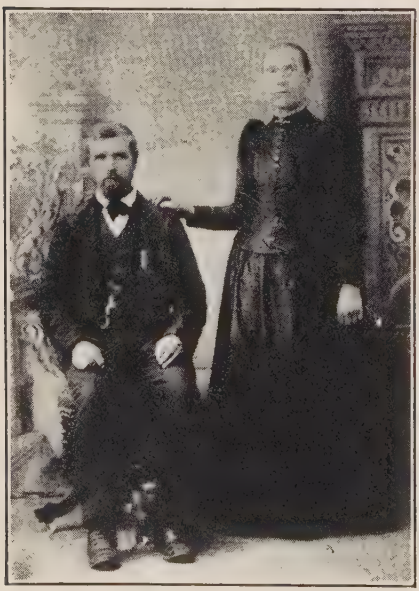
The first male settler was John Malý, who arrived July 1, 1866 with his family. He was born in Litoměřice, Bohemia, and emigrated to Wisconsin, thence to Nebraska. In that year came Joseph Březina (born in Vlaším, County of Tábor, Bohemia) and family, also from Wisconsin.

1867—The Following Came:

Václav Malý, born in Litoměřice, Bohemia, — from Wisconsin.

Dominik Brázda and family and his father (born in Vlaším, County of Tábor) came from Bohemia. Joseph Brázda, also from Vlaším.

Ignác Skala (born 1840 in Klučenice near Milevsko) came with his parents to Milwaukee, Wis. in 1854, thence to Manitowoc, where he joined the army (Civil War). He was wounded during the retreat from Centerville. After serving three years and three months, he came to West Point. With Skala and his wife and two daughters were John Novák and his son Joseph Novák. They came by stage from Fremont. At that time there was in West Point only a sod blacksmith shop, a "prairie" hotel owned by a Mr. Mayers and a little store, besides a few dwelling houses. John McNeal, who owned timber land along the Elkhorn, gave the homesteaders material for



Anna (Walla) Schlecht and husband

dug-outs. In those days money was never seen, everyone worked in exchange and cooperated. The first winter was hard. It was a long time before Skala was able to earn $5.00 with which to buy a stove. The next year he raised 170 bushels of wheat and his neighbors hauled it to Fremont for him, where he sold it for 50 cents per bushel and bought oxen.

1868—The Following Came:

Frank Klojda, born in Budějovice, Bohemia, came to Wisconsin in 1852. This pioneer was recognized and truly so as the most prominent Czech of his day in the county. He was known as Cloudy (an Americanized version of his name) and for years a postoffice named in his honor existed in the county. He was a man of wordly experience, having travelled much since landing in America and speaking English, German and Czech fluently. He was of fine appearance, refined manners and left the memory of a kindly, charitable and unsparing worker among poor pioneers. He was postmaster of Cloudy for many years and was the first Czech to be elected to a county office, that of assessor, in 1869. In 1875 he removed to Seattle, Washington.

Frank Walla and family, born in the County of Písek, came to this country in 1854 to Wisconsin, thence to Nebraska. Mr. Walla was the first Czech to enter Cuming County, although not the first settler. He had made an exploring trip some time in the early sixties, during the Civil War, and upon his return to Wisconsin, where he was living, told his friends about the beautiful Elkhorn Valley, whose fertile prairies were awaiting the settlers' industrious hands. After settling in West Point he built a brewery and engaged in that business.

Paul Psota, tailor. Ant. Langer, photographer.

1869—The Following Came:

Václav Novák (born in Malé Bečváry, August 2, 1857) came to Milwaukee with his parents in 1867, later to Cuming County. Near the German settlement St. Charles was an old, vacant, log schoolhouse, a new one having been built. That was their home, before a sod house was erected. Mr.

Novák married Anna Malý and later moved to Colfax County, where he lives. His wife is buried in West Point.

Frank Hanzl (born Dec. 31, 1849 in Malotice), later moved to Dodge County. — Anton Psota, son of Paul; Fred Sonnenschein, barber, from Prague; Anna Novák, homesteader, with family, from Wisconsin.

1870—The Following Came:

Václav Oliverius and family, from Kostelec, County of Plzeň; Václav Blecha and family, from Kostelec; Frank Čejda and family (born in County of Písek) from Wisconsin; John Čejda.

John Řezníček and family, a cigar maker. Mr. Řezníček was born in Rožmberk, Bohemia, March 1830, died in West Point in May, 1873. He came to New York City in 1862, then to Milwaukee, later by train to Council Bluffs, Iowa, crossed the Missouri River by stage over ice and from Omaha to Fremont by rail, then by wagon to West Point.

Frank Pospíšil and family, came from Iowa.

Jerome Vostrovský, born March 5, 1836 in Semily, near Kladruby, County of Pardubice, Bohemia. He emigrated to Champaign, Illinois in 1863, in 1864 moved to St. Louis, in 1867 to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and in 1870 to West Point, where he opened a dry goods store. In 1875 with his family he removed to California, but in 1879 returned to West Point. In 1883 again he went to California, where he acquired wealth in grape culture. He died in San José in May 1901. In St. Louis he married Mrs. Anna Mudroch (born Vitoušek). His daughter Anna married Thomas Čapek of New York, a banker and well-known Czech-American author. The other daughter Clara (Mrs. Winlow) has translated and also written several books. His son Jerome lives in New York.

John Vlna and family (born in County of Písek) from Wisconsin.

Joseph Zajíček and family (born in Mišovice, County of Písek) came from Wisconsin, where he emigrated in 1856. Mr. Zajíček engaged in the saloon business.

1871—The Following Came:

Matěj Sádlo and family, a shoemaker (born in Minice, County of Písek), came to this country in 1856, to West Point from Chicago; Charles Jankele and family, from Iowa, a shoemaker; Jacob Zeman and family, a blacksmith, (born in County of Písek), came to this country in 1856, to West Point from Wisconsin.

John Wiesner (and family), who conducted a meat market, also came from Wisconsin. Mr. Wiesner's full name was Florian John Wiesner and his memory, like Mr. Klojda's, will never be forgotten by those who knew him. He was born near Litoměřice, Bohemia, February 29, 1840 and came to this country with his parents in 1852, to Manitowoc County, Wisconsin. In 1859 he was married to Miss Mary Zázvorka, in 1861 he enlisted in the Civil War, re-enlisted in 1862 and received his discharge for disability in the same year. The years before he came to West Point (1864—1871) were spent in Chicago, Cedar Rapids and Marion, Iowa, and Blair, Nebraska. His experience covered several years of farming but the greater part was spent in the meat-market business in West Point and Wisner. However, the town of Wisner was not named for him. In 1877, soon after the discovery of gold in the Black Hills, he made a long, hard trip there, in search of his brother Bohumil (Gottlieb), whom he found. He was of robust physique and possessed qualities of mind that would have made him a notable man, had he met with favorable opportunities. One could catch, at times, a glimpse of the poetic beneath his gruff exterior and he was passionately fond of music, being a singer of no ordinary ability. While not a musician, he played the accordion as no professional has played it there since his time. He was also the first public entertainer of that generation in the community, which was so sadly in need of something to cheer its spirits and fill the longing of the Czechs for songs, music and dances. He always took an interest in public affairs and was the second Czech elected to a county office, that of coroner, in 1873.

Václav Drahoš and family, a harness merchant, from Iowa and Wisconsin. Birthplace unknown.

All of the preceding were farmers, unless otherwise indicated, in which case they did business in West Point, the only town at the time.

West Point and Cuming County never had a large Czech population and most of those who came were principally from Wisconsin, but during the seventies the territory was large, for nearly all the Czechs in Dodge County, about the town of Dodge, and those in Colfax County, about Howell, considered West Point their nearest market place. After the branch road from Scribner was put through, Dodge, Howell and other points sprung up and West Point lost this trade. Up to about 1868 Omaha was the nearest railroad point. After that, to January 1871, Fremont. At that date the Fremont Elkhorn and Missouri Valley was built through to West Point. The earliest settlers, therefore, had a distance of 75 to 85 miles to market, made by ox teams, stage, etc.

Joseph Zerzan, later of Schuyler, who resided in West Point for a time, organized a small Czech library in 1874. Jerome Vostrovský organized the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society lodge in 1879. The Misses Anna Zajíček, Katherine Langer and Anna Dworak were the first teachers of Czech descent to teach school. Some schools were taught in private homes, others in sod or frame buildings. Miss Zajíček is a sister of Joseph F. Zajíček, who has the following to say about pioneer days:

"In 1870, as an eight-year-old boy, I emigrated with my parents and sisters from Racine County, Wisconsin, to West Point, where I have lived continuously since. At the time of our coming there were no railroads traversing Cuming County and Fremont was the nearest railroad station. From there we travelled on in a stage coach. As I have heard from my parents, most of the Czech emigrants of the early fifties came because they wanted civil and religious liberty, but those that came in later years to the middle west were attracted by the plentiful and cheap land.

As stated in this history, Frank Walla, who came from the same province in Bohemia as my father, explored the Elkhorn Valley in the early sixties. He settled in West

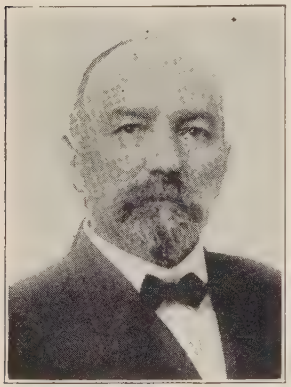
Point in 1868 and correspondence between him and my father ensued, the result being our arrival in 1870. At the time of our coming there was no bridge across the Missouri River, so we made our way by ferry. West Point was the only town northwest of Fremont and the homesteads were all taken, but the country was sparsely settled. This was true because so much land had been taken by script and government grants by speculators. In some places there were distances of two and three miles between settlers.

Mrs. Grewe, one of the very earliest pioneers, who made the whole journey from Wisconsin afoot, driving cattle, tells me that when their caravan arrived at its destination, they inquired of the first settler (David Neligh) how far it was to West Point. He pointed to a house half a mile ahead. Upon reaching it, they found it unoccupied. The only other building was that of John D. Neligh, founder of the town, which had been surveyed and platted some six years prior to the time. To Mrs. Grewe the country was a wilderness and she wished herself back in Wisconsin, but there was no way of returning except by walking. This she could not do alone, so in a short time she married and began life on a homestead six miles southwest of West Point, eighty miles from market and railroad. She lived on the same place until 1925, when she entered the Old Folks' Home in West Point, where she enjoys the comforts of modern life, being in good health and mind. Her sister, Mrs. Mary Brockman, now lives in

Frank Klojda
Theresa Grew nee Klojda
Mary Brockmann nee Klojda

California, but the rest of that little company who came with her are no more. The first colony to settle in Cuming County consisted of a group of Germans, who came from Dubuque, Iowa, in the spring of 1860. From that year to 1865, when Mrs. Grewe came, the colony had not received a single additional inhabitant. After that it began to grow, so that when I came, in 1870, there was a population of some 200.

The struggle for existence and a home was no doubt similar to that of all pioneers in new lands. Those who pioneered in timbered countries had different problems from those who settled on the prairies, but each group had to battle for existence. The hardships of Bohemian pioneers in Cuming County were similar to those of other nationalities. They were all poor, with but few exceptions, and those who had a little more, helped the poorer ones, so that in the end they were no better off than the poorest of the poor. It was a sort of socialistic government.



Joseph Jerman
born in Kámen, Žehrovice. In business in West Point since 1885. Twice mayor, also member of City Council and School Board.

Among those who had some financial means were Frank Walla, Jerome Vostrovský, Joseph Březina and my father, Joseph Zajíček. The first and last named, being engaged in the business of refreshing thirsty wayfarers (and in Bohemia good, well-aged beer is a daily beverage, not more injurious than tea or coffee) were the heaviest contributors in giving aid to others. For in the old country taverns are still the old-time wayside inns, a place to feed, refresh and rest body and soul. At our home we fed and lodged the poor homesteaders, when there was so little room that beds were made on the floor. Sometimes our mother felt worn out with it all, and no wonder. She requested father to discontinue having people to meals so frequently, when they were settlers of other nationalities, and

she felt their own people ought to help them. These homesteaders came from near and far, some with horse teams, mostly with oxen, and others afoot. They hardly ever had any money and could not buy a meal, so father would say: "We must give them something to eat, they have come a long way and must be hungry. We can fix up some place for them to sleep, too." Quite frequently a loan of a dollar or two was made beside, which was repaid after a long time, if not forgotten.

The living conditions of some of those homesteaders were pathetic. I will mention just one case. The man was a tenant in the same house we lived in after arriving in West Point. His family was on a homestead and he worked in town as a laborer, where he earned just enough for their necessary food. He had no way of conveying to them the provisions he bought, so he carried a sack of flour on his back some sixteen miles. Such were the hardships some had to endure, and yet they did not complain.

While a part of the county belonged to the Omaha Indian Reservation, we had in those early years many Indians around us (sometimes as many as five hundred camping on the Elkhorn river for a year, right in town) yet none of the Czech pioneers were disturbed by them. Many had their scare and gave the red men provisions to satisfy them, but no serious trouble occurred. As a boy I enjoyed their company, for every night they used to camp here and the few town folk mingled with them. By the light of the moon, while their camp fires were burning, we listened to the beating of their tom-toms, and watched the young bucks dance to the tune of something like Hale-Luya.

In 1871 I experienced homestead life, for my father purchased a homestead relinquishment of eighty acres and entered that land again as a homestead. Mother and a part of the family, among them I, made our home in a dug-out on this claim. These dug-outs preceded the sod houses. They were built about four feet in the ground, by excavating that much, and were common in our neighborhood. For the roof rafters were laid, a few boards or poles placed over them and the whole covered with sod. Some settlers dug

wells, but many did not have them at first, being obliged to haul water from a neighbor, often a long distance. The next step was to have someone with a team break five acres of the prairie (which we had done) and plant it to corn. The breaking was usually done in May and June, in time for the corn planting. In this way the usual number of acres would be broken up the first year, the homesteaders not being able to pay for more. The price usually charged was

Young Indian bucks dancing

$5.00 per acre and there were not enough teams in the neighborhood to do more. The customary machinery used (and I helped do it) was an ax, with which cracks were chopped in the sod and two or three kernels put in each, the cracks were then closed by stepping on them. With us, fuel was the scarcest article, because we were twenty miles from town and from either stream that was timbered, and we had no teams to haul with. No corn had been raised, so there were neither stalks nor cobs to burn, and our daily

resort was to gather sunflowers that grew along the creeks and ravines. They were stacked for winter use.

Our experience as homesteaders was a short one, for in less than a year we left the dug-out and quite suddenly. We were troubled by snakes boring through the sod. We could stand one at a time, but when on a summer evening we entered our abode to retire for the night, and saw that it had been changed to a reptiles' den, several snakes parading up and down the walls, we gathered what little clothing we could safely reach and ran to the neighbor's, never to return. While living on our claim, we had all necessary provisions and consequently many visitors, some of whom came to get something for their sick, as tea, coffee, sugar, dried fruits, etc. These were considered delicacies, most people did not have them and could not buy them. They had no variety of food and doubtless anything for a change would tempt a sick person's appetite.

Our visits among these neighbors far and near were frequent, and I can yet remember how hospitable and generous they were. They did all in their power to entertain and give us the best, but few if any could offer palatable food. Much of that was camouflaged. Coffee was sometimes made of parched corn, or small grain. Bread of some mixture other than flour, with no seasoning of any kind. There was no sugar, pepper, salt or other requirements for cooking palatable dishes, and yet those people were happy and did not complain. Indeed, so carefree and joyous a time it seems to me now that while I am writing this I wish I could be with them for just an hour or two in that state and period.

I did not speak of the grasshopper year, for our settlers were then established in their homes. Of course, those were struggling years, but we had cattle, hogs, poultry and some left-over grain to fall back upon, which settlers on later claims lacked. In the years preceding the grasshoppers, about 1873, our products were of the cheapest. Corn sold in West Point at 8 cents per bushel, and was used a great deal for fuel. Wheat was 35 cents and dressed hogs, I believe, less than two cents per pound. At one time wheat sold for

30 cents in West Point and for 35 cents in Fremont. Many farmers hauled it to Fremont, considering the difference of $1.50 to $2.00 per load worth their efforts.

Prior to 1868, before the Union Pacific railroad was built, provisions had to be hauled from Omaha and our products hauled thither. This was always done in the fall of the year, so that the farmers could provide supplies for the winter, because of roads, creeks and rivers. There were no bridges and nothing but trails for roads. Even the Elkhorn river at West Point had no bridge until 1870, Wisner following in 1872. All we had for many years was a foot bridge. For these reasons, no freighting was done in winter, and if a colony ran out of provisions, as did happen in 1860, the people were in dire straits. Joseph Kaup tells me his father and other members of that colony had to live several weeks on raw and parched corn and what little flour they could grind in a coffee mill. There was no way of getting to Omaha, the river being partly frozen and they could not ford it.

The families of John Malý and Joseph Březina, who settled here in 1866, greatly aided Czech immigrants prior to 1870, for both had more than ordinary means to do so. Joseph Březina was the largest land owner at that time in Cuming County, possessing 960 acres, all of which he had purchased except the 160 he homesteaded. While not located as near the settlement as John Malý, his place became a refuge for home-seekers later. He gave those early comers much assistance, but through unfortunate ventures, sponsored by his descendants, he died a poor though esteemed citizen.

Of Frank Klojda mention is made elsewhere. Another old settler who was here prior to our coming was Anton Langer Sr., born December 25, 1839 in Houska, Bohemia. He emigrated to this country in 1855, locating as a photographer in Detroit. In 1863 he married Katherine Jeffekenský and in 1867 came to Omaha, where he engaged in his profession. After that he resided a short time in Florence and later on a homestead near West Point and Crowell. He came to West Point in 1868 and in 1869 moved his family

here, and conducted a photographic gallery here until his death in 1902. He served as member of our Council and Board of Education and was the leader of our first band and orchestra back in the seventies. He played with more than ordinary skill on the cornet, flute and cello. His daughter Katherine was one of our first teachers and his son Anton J. purchased in 1889 the West Point Republican, editing and publishing it for several years. At that time he was perhaps the youngest journalist in Nebraska, a hard worker and a forceful writer. He now lives in Long Beach, Cal., where the real estate business had gained for him a competency.

Joseph F. Zajíček

Czechs are natural lovers of music, song, mirth and dances, and even as poor pioneers they sought to lighten their lot by social gatherings. As early as 1872 a dance hall was built in what was known as a summer garden on the banks of the Elkhorn river, three or four blocks from the business section of West Point. The buildings were financed by Frank Walla, and the garden furnished and managed by my father for three years. It was surrounded by a natural grove of trees, wild fruits, grapes and berries and located just opposite the first bridge built over the river. A band of musicians was organized, one Václav Svoboda from near Schuyler being hired to do this, employment being given him that he might stay. It is safe to say that two out of five Czechs can play some instrument, and so in no time we had an orchestra of no mean ability.

In those times Sundays were the only days for amusement and it required a great deal of fussing and cleaning of clothing, boots and shoes to make a nice appearance, for most of such garments had lived a long and useful life. The whole community for miles around came and indulged in the old-fashioned dances as: money musk, Virginia reel,

quadrille with honor your partners, right and left, balance all, do — si — do and other calls resounding until morning. The polkas, mazurkas and waltzes of the Czechs rivalled with the American square dances.

Occasionally Indians, who annually passed through on their way south to the Platte River for a buffalo hunt, camped on the Elkhorn with their squaws and pappooses, sometimes as many as five hundred. They often stayed a week and gave us a war dance, an interesting sight, with their war paint and feathers, tomahawks, scalping knives and beating tom-toms. The young generation of those times certainly enjoyed that summer garden, for those yet living praise them as the happiest years of their lives. This garden has now become a city park, dedicated to the memory of the founder of West Point, John D. Neligh, and is destined to become one of the beauty-spots of the state.

After this summer garden had been established, F. J. Wiesner conducted one at West Point, and later entertained the community with a dance pavillion on his farm. Frank Pospíšil also gave playlets, dances and comic diversion on his farm, and so our gayety-loving Czechs were entertained for many years.

In those days prairie fires were feared more than the Indians. In about 1875 I was in a company of people surrounded by a fire, but we made our way through a cornfield, which checked the flames while we passed. A Czech, Matěj Krajíc, however, was not so fortunate. He perished in that fire and his wife, looking on and unable to help, lost her reason. The flames of those prairie fires made leaps and bounds sometimes of twenty and thirty feet, where the grass was tall. It was said that those fires could travel faster than a horse could run, and I have no reason to doubt it, when the grass was high and the wind strong.

By 1880 dug-outs and log houses were replaced with frame and some brick buildings, on the farms, and in towns brick buildings superseded ramshackle frame structures. In 1873 Cuming County built a brick court house in West Point at a cost of $40,000. It was the best in the state at the

time, with perhaps the exception of Omaha. At that time also a three-story brick hotel, the Neligh House, rivalled anything in the state. Among the Czech merchants in West Point of the seventies and eighties were: Jerome Vostrovský, Venel Drahoš, Matěj Sádlo, Charles Jankele, Joseph Dvořák, Joseph Zerzan, Anton Marek, E. A. Kadeš, Frank Vlna, Fred Sonnenschein, F. J. Wiesner, Frank Herold, Paul Psota, Anton Langer and others, in all kinds of business."

Dominik Brázda and family

Mr. Anton J. Brázda, whose parents Dominik and Anna Brázda came to Cuming County in the spring of 1867, and who was at that time five years old, writes:

"We left Bohemia in 1866 and landed in Baltimore, lived there seven months and reached Omaha June 16, 1867, where my uncle Joseph Březina met us and conveyed us by wagon to Cuming County. With us came my grandfather and my uncle Joseph Brázda. Father took a homestead of 160 acres, grandfather 80 acres, both twelve miles southwest of West Point. We had no money, not even to pay the

filing fee of $14, which father borrowed from his friend Mr. Novák. The first three months we lived with Uncle Březina and father worked for him, then John Malý allowed us to make a dug-out on a side hill of his claim, where we lived about a year. Father and mother worked for the few farmers that were here, earning just enough to keep us children and grandfather from starving. It was at that time that a neighbor asked mother if she could get some eggs for her. It had been so long since her family had seen one that her husband, as she told mother, said he could not remember if they were black or white.

In the spring of 1868 we built another dug-out, this time on our claim five miles west of our nearest neighbor and that spring we had five acres of land broken at $5.00 per acre, payable in labor to be done in harvest time. These five acres father planted to corn and beans. During that planting-time, he was without food for three days, because a number of Indians on ponies had asked him for food and he was so badly scared that he gave them all the provisions he had.

In October of that year we left our first dug-out on John Malý's claim and he helped us move. We had then several dozen chickens, three pigs and some household goods, all of which was loaded on one wagon and hauled to our claim. It was no small matter, for we had to cross ravines and creeks, there being of course no bridges. The crop off the five acres and the live stock we had did not provide sufficiently, as there were eight in the family, so my parents continued working out, in exchange for needed commodities. Money was an almost unknown article and was of almost no value, for one could not buy with it what was most needed in those days. While our parents were away, which was almost all the time, grandfather looked after us and gathered sunflowers, gum weeds and plum brushes for fuel, storing what he could gather for winter use.

In the spring of 1869 father was informed by Frank Klojda, a locator of claims, that he was living on the wrong

tract. In those days of no roads, no lines, no compass and the vast expanse of prairie, it required experienced locators to find the correct spots, and mistakes were not uncommon. So another, a third, dug-out was made, for as yet not even a sod house could be afforded. We made it with the assistance of Mr. Klojda, who was then our closer neighbor. After two years' residence there, father started to earn his first cow, for which he gave five months' hard labor on a farm some twelve miles from our home. Then he labored nine or twelve months longer to earn a pair of steers, which were broken to yoke and made our first team. During his absence, mother continued working and carrying afoot to town her poultry products, returning the same way with provisions for her family. On one such trip, homeward bound, she stopped to see a neighbor about work, which delayed her so that it was sunset when she left and had eight miles to go with a luggage of groceries and twenty-five pounds of flour. Darkness overtook her and threatening rain, but she kept on until exhausted, when she was obliged to rest and await the dawn. Coyotes yelped all around her and she had nothing but a sunflower stalk for defense. When morning came, she found herself but half a mile from home.

In the winter of 1871 father was employed in cutting timber on the Elkhorn river some ten miles from home and hewing same into logs, for himself and for the men for whom he worked. The next year we erected a log house on our claim and conditions improved. In 1873 the court house in West Point was built, which gave father employment and then for the first time we actually began to use money. By that time too we raised sufficient crops for sustenance, had milk and butter from our cows and an ox-team for work. In 1877 we traded the oxen for horses, two yoke for one pair of the latter. That same year father bought 80 acres of land at $4.00 per acre and in 1883 another 160 acres, whereupon he retired from farm life and moved to West Point."

At present Czechs live in and about West Point and Beemer. Quite a number of the original settlers within a few years removed to Dodge County.

Richardson County – 1865

As noted elsewhere, Charles Zulek (or Culek, as he originally spelled it) was the first Czech to enter Richardson County. His oldest daughter Anna (Mrs. Baur), who was six years old at the time, writes: "We came to Nebraska from Illinois in June, 1856. The trip was made with oxen and took six weeks' time. We had intended to go to Topeka, but learned that there was warfare there, so decided to settle in Nebraska. Father took a claim two miles east of

The first home built by Charles Culek, still standing, near Nemaha river.

what is now Humboldt. Someone jumped this claim and involved him in a lawsuit, which he (father) won. When the Homestead Law went into effect, father took a homestead about five and a half miles south of what is now Humboldt. In the fall of 1867 he built the stone house which still stands on the site of the old homestead and is here illustrated. The early settlers and homesteaders built their first houses of logs. There was plenty of timber along the rivers. Soon afterwards they began constructing permanent houses of stone, of which there was an abundance in the

hills. Father came to Nebraska without any money. He borrowed one hundred dollars in Missouri and paid twenty percent interest on it. In those days a quarter section of land cost $200.00, but the price soon rose to $300.00. The first sawmill was erected in Salem in 1856. Methodists first settled here in 1856. Deer, elk, antelope, buffalo and wolves were numerous. Our dog caught a deer in the river and father helped him kill it. This was at Christmas time, so we had venison for our first Christmas Eve in Nebraska. Our bread was made of corn mixed with water. Our first school was situated about three miles south of Bern, Kansas. Father loaded my brother Joseph and me in a wagon and also our bed, bed-clothes, provisions and clothing. The teacher and pupils lodged in the same room. We stayed there for the term and then moved our bed and bedding back home again, repeating the operation during each term. It was called a "subscription school", because each neighbor subscribed the amount necessary to pay the teacher. Later a school was built three miles from our home, where we walked daily and back again, and still later we had a schoolhouse half a mile away. I remember the first baptism. Mr. Nims opened his first store on the banks of the Long Branch. The baptism was held in front of the store, in the river. A hole was cut in the ice, it being freezing weather. The people were then baptized in the water and they had to walk to town in the cold. The woman who was baptized first was never well afterward."

Frank and Elizabeth Skalák

Joseph Zulek, Mrs.

Bauer's brother, writes: "My father settled in Richardson County in August 1856 and the following November I was born. Brownville was our nearest settlement, thirty miles distant. Father had a yoke of oxen, which meant slow and arduous traveling, especially in rainy weather. In fact at such times and for some time afterward it was impossible to ford the streams. We had a good spring, but when the river rose, father had to get drinking water from a distant spring back in the hills. I remember his telling of the time when he was fording the river with a load of sheep. The oxen would not go the way they were meant to, but overturned the wagon and the sheep all went into the river. When their fleece became thoroughly soaked, they were very heavy for father to lift back into the wagon. There was a little corn mill on the Nemaha river, but it worked only when there was enough water. Sometimes we could not get our corn ground for weeks and had to subsist on potatoes in the meantime."

The little town of Arago, on the Missouri river, was the first stopping place for Czechs in Nebraska. That was before the railroad was built through and they came via Chicago to St. Joseph and up the Missouri River, as many as four boats being at the landing at one time. Of course the homestead law had attracted attention of settlers and so we find that in 1864 and 1865 a number of Czechs composed a transient population there, and in 1864 John Heřman and Robert J. Shary with families had settled there and conducted a distillery and tavern. Václav Šesták, a relative of Mr. Heřman, was there with them. All of these soon removed to Saline County, in the history of which mention is made of them. About that time the following also were there: Joseph Jindra and family, Matěj Prachejl, John M. Svoboda and wife, Mrs. Kubíček (a widow) and her two sons Matěj (Matthew) and Frank Kubíček. She was also the mother of John M. Svoboda and they all lived together, Svoboda and his wife being cigar makers. In 1863 Svoboda had made a trip to Colorado, accompanying a soldiers' train. All of these people shortly removed to the vicinity of Crete, Saline County. Frank Fidrmutz settled in Richard-

son permanently, near Humboldt. Within a short time Mr. Shary moved to Aspinwall, a nearby village, now vanished. Mr. Heřman worked in the mill in Arago, later following Mr. Shary to Aspinwall, at which time the following Czechs lived in that village: The families of Heřman and Shary, Václav Kostohryz and Frank Dusil (all moved to Saline) and a Jew named Rother. Thus the first Czechs came here in 1864, but the first to locate permanently did so in 1865, in the vicinity of Humboldt, where Charles Zulek, who aided and advised them, was already living.

1865—The Following Came:

Frank Skalák, born in Sokolec; John Vokoun, born in Libice; Václav Brzoň, born in County of Čáslav; M. Němeček, birthplace unknown.

1866—The Following Came:

Frank Fidrmutz, born in Králův Městec; John Petrášek, born in Libice; Václav Prachejl, born in Voseček; Václav Holeček, born in Libice; John Janata, birthplace unknown; Frank Němeček, born in Králův Městec.

1867—The Following Came:

Václav Hnízda, born in Trhová Zahrádka; Ferdinand Blecha, born in Hlineč; Václav Hlavatý, birthplace unknown; John Musil, birthplace unknown.

1868—The Following Came:

Anton Eis, born in Slavíkov.

1869—The Following Came:

John Cizner, birthplace unknown.

The pioneers of this county had to meet the current problems. Mrs. Sophie Eis, wife of John Eis, daughter-in-law of Anton Eis, and niece of Chas. Zulek, writes: "When my husband came to this country, the journey over the ocean lasted thirty-three days, for the ship became disabled. He came to my uncle Charles Zulek, who had settled here in 1856 and had been obliged at first to walk to St. Joseph, Mo. for provisions, seventy-five miles each way. Uncle Zulek used to wrap sacks around his feet, take a loaf of bread and set out to St. Joseph, for provisions, or to work. People settled near timber and water, even if such lands were not as good as others. When my husband arrived, all the home-

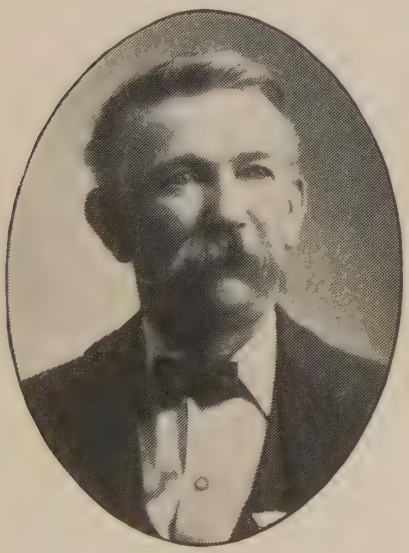
steads were gone, but there were no fences and stock grazed freely. The first settlers had no means with which to build fences and their gardens and fields were often wrecked by the cattle. My husband says that during the first two years he never saw a piece of money, farmers paid each other with work. When they took products to town, they had to trade them out. Meat sold for 8 cents a pound, eggs 5 cents a dozen, poultry 4 cents live weight. But all were happy and did more for each other than people do now."

Frank J. Hnízda, son of an early pioneer Václav Hnízda, writes: "My parents came to Nebraska from Chicago in 1867, stopping first in Aspinwall. They registered for a homestead in Johnson County, at Brownville, but that land was poor and badly cut up by ditches, so they gave it up and returned to Brownville, staying there about two months. Then they rented 40 acres two miles west of Aspinwall. They had the land plowed and then put in corn, cultivating it by hand. In the fall, when the corn was beginning to ripen, grasshoppers came in thick clouds and the garden was destroyed by evening of the first day. The pests then attacked the corn, annihilating the leaves and stalks, leaving the ripening ears bare on the ground. In 1868 my parents purchased 160 acres just across the line in Pawnee County, for $1,000.00. They farmed this land for eight years, the last two of which were again "grasshopper years". Fodder and hay were high so father decided to sell off the livestock and all the rest and move to Humboldt. Being a shoemaker by trade, he engaged in that business there for a good many years. During those early times corn sold as low as 8 cents per bushel. Missouri River towns were their trading points. Mail was delivered to town by a carrier on horseback. My father told of Mr. Zulek taking a lot of hams and bacon to

Václav and Mary Hnízda

Nebraska City. He was offered 2 cents a pound in cash or 2½ cents in trade, so he hauled his load to Omaha. There he was offered 2½ cents in cash or 2¾ cents in trade. So he turned around and hauled it to St. Joseph, Mo., where he sold it for 2¾ cents in cash. My father and his sons Frank J. and James erected several business buildings in Hum boldt. He lived to a ripe old age, as did my mother."

As in all Czech communities, there are good musicians in Humboldt also. Alois Watzek (Vacek), born in Písková Lhota, Poděbrady, Bohemia, has directed the local band for almost forty-five years and during that time has instructed bands in the vicinity. He was for six years a member of a military band in the Austrian army and conducted a military band in Russia for four years after the Turkish War. During the World War he was leader of the band at the National Soldiers' Home in Forth Leavenworth, Kansas. He is a cornetist of note and recognized as an instructor.



Fr. A. Witt

Among those who were active in national and lodge life, Frank A. Witt was one of the most prominent. He officiated at many funeral services for Liberals, as non-sectarian speaker. Mr. Witt was born in Volín, near Klatovy, Bohemia, June 12, 1839. In 1866 he married Miss Anna Bouřil and soon thereafter emigrated to this country, settling first in Dayton, Ohio, later in Chicago, Ill., and still later in Crete, Nebraska. In 1874 he bought railroad land there, but the grasshoppers drove him out. In 1877 he lived for a time in Calvert, Texas, but returned to Nebraska and settled in Humboldt. There he lived with his wife until 1916, when they made their

home with their sons Bohumil F. and Jaroslav L., in Newman Grove, Nebraska, where they both died. Mr. Witt's demise occurred on May 18, 1925.

Czechs in this county live in and around Humboldt, being a part of the colony that extends over into eastern Pawnee County.

Saline County – 1865

This county contains the largest Czech rural colony of any in Nebraska and with Richardson and Cuming is oldest in point of settlement.

1865—The Following Came:

Frank Jelínek (born Nov. 22, 1835, in Mezná, County of Budějovice, came to Manitowoc, Wis. in 1854, died in Crete Feb. 1, 1916) and his wife, born Mary Krajník (born 1842 in Střemchy, County of Mělník, came to Manitowoc, Wis. in 1854). Mrs. Jelínek is living in Crete, at date of writing, being of good health and memory and has furnished most of the data for the history of this county.

Joseph Jelínek, brother of Frank (born in 1838 in Mezná), at date of writing living with his son-in-law Dr. Waněk in Loup City, Nebr., and his wife Anna.

Vitus Jelínek, another brother (born in Mezná, died in Crete in 1889).

Václav Jelínek, father of the above. Died in Crete in 1901, aged 99 years.

Václav Šesták (Shestak) (born in Jenichov, near Nebužele, Prague County, December 25, 1835, died in Wilber March 7, 1905). The railroad station Shestak between Crete and Wilber was named for him.

Frank Křtěn (born in Libšice near Prague, May 29, 1836, came to Milwaukee, Wis. in 1857. Died in Crete Dec. 6, 1908). His son writes the name Karten. With Křtěn came Frank Stejskal and Joseph Havlík.

Václav Kubíček (born in Písková Lhota near Poděbrady, died in Crete, June 26, 1920).

George (Jiří) Krajník, birthplace unknown.

Joseph Hynek (born in Stareč near Kdyně, County Pilsen. Came to Wisconsin in 1856, then to St. Joseph in 1865, but stayed there with his family until the spring of 1866, when they went to Saline County. Died in Crete 1878). His son became the first Czech breeder of thorough-bred hogs in Nebraska and married Katherine Chmelíř, pioneer.

Matěj (Matthew) Kovářík (born in Havlovice, Domažlice, died in Crete 1910).

Frank Kovářík, his brother, born in the same place.

Václav Petráček (born in Dlouhé Zboží near Poděbrady). Made entry the same time that the Jelínek brothers and Šesták did, but settled on his claim in 1866 and not long thereafter moved away.

The majority of these pioneers brought families. Krajník was single, he came with his mother.

This then was the nucleus of our largest and very prosperous Czech county. As mentioned before, in the history of Richardson County, Heřman and Shary had a sort of tavern in Arago, which was a gathering-place for their countrymen, in 1864 and 1865. Both had lived prior to that in Wisconsin and Václav Šesták, a relative and in their employ in Arago, wrote to his Wisconsin friends Frank and Joseph Jelínek about the wonderful lands that could be had for almost nothing. Both brothers set out in the spring of 1865, via St. Joseph and up the river by steamboat. Upon their arrival in Arago, Heřman and Shary advised them to go to see Charles Zulek, living near Humboldt. They intended doing so, but a freighter recommended to them the country about the Blue River, for he had made the trip that way. The Jelíneks returned to Arago and in company with Šesták set out on March 10, 1865 for Nebraska City, to get a plat of the country, working their way on a steamboat up the Missouri River. In Nebraska City they lodged in the tavern conducted by Václav Petráček and told him of their plans. Obtaining the plat, they walked 75 miles to their destination, near the present town of Crete. During this trip they followed a large wagon train, protected by soldiers against Indians. However, the vehicles were loaded to the brim with military supplies, so they could not obtain a lift and had to walk the whole way.

Frank Jelínek

Reaching their destination, they found two settlers named Bickle and Burt (or Bert). Bickle took them down the river about three miles and the lovely country in early spring made a fine impression on them. Each chose a homestead of 160 acres and returning to Nebraska City again on foot, each made entry and with them also Václav Petrá-

ček filed on the same day, although he had not gone to Saline County with them and did not settle on his homestead until the following year. Frank Jelínek returned to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, to sell his farm and prepare his family for the journey. Joseph stayed and worked on a boat. On his way home Frank Jelínek stopped in Milwaukee, Wis. and told his friend Frank Křtěn there about Nebraska and gave him a map of the country. Křtěn immediately set out with his family and with Frank Stejskal and Joseph Havlík (and his family). Each took a claim and settled thereon in August 1865. These homesteads were adjacent to each other. Havlík was killed by falling from a load of hay. Stejskal sold out a few years later and returned to Bohemia, where he died. Havlík's son inherited his father's homestead, that of Křtěn was sold later and is now Horký Park in Crete.

Therefore, Křtěn, Havlík and Stejskal were the first actual settlers (Czech) in Saline County. Křtěn was the first to pay county taxes, holding receipt No. 1. But Frank and Joseph Jelínek and Václav Šesták were the first Czechs to enter the county and with Petráček the first to make entry on homesteads there. Vincent J. Štědrý, now living in Broken Bow, Nebr., a son-in-law of Křtěn, (having married his daughter Anna), writes:

"My father-in-law (with family), Havlík (with family) and Stejskal set out by wagon from Wisconsin, travelling over a sparsely settled plain. One day especially they had trouble. Mrs. Havlík became ill, for she was about to give birth to a child. They stopped at a farm-house and asked for water and help for the sufferer. They could not speak English well and the farmer and his wife thought Mrs. Havlík was ill of a contagious disease and at first refused. However, as soon as the farmer's wife realized what the case was, she took the woman into her home and aided her. The child was born and as soon as the mother had recovered somewhat, the travellers set out again. One day Havlík carelessly threw a burning match into the high, dry grass, having lighted his pipe. About all that saved them from burning to death was the fact that there was no wind and

shortly thereafter they crossed a stream and left the burning grass behind them.

The three pioneers settled one next to the other in a location now constituting the western limits of the city of Crete. In those first years all the settlers had to go to Nebraska City for supplies and Křtěn's home was a stopping-place for them. They often lodged over night and put up their teams there too. The banks of the Big Blue river were covered with timber and many Indians made their home there. They often begged food, especially when Křtěn had company.

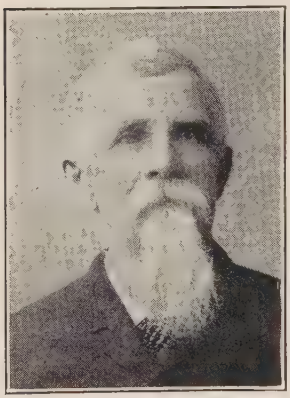
Joseph Jelínek

My father-in-law was attacked by a bull in the pasture, when he went to milk cows. He escaped and shot the beast. The entrails and hide they buried, in order that wolves be not attracted there. The Indians heard of this and wanted meat. When this was refused, they asked for the entrails. And in fact they dug up the buried garbage and ate it. Their lot was hard at times. Their hunting grounds were being destroyed, so they were forced to beg food. During one of the Indian uprisings my mother-in-law became so frightened that it eventually cost her life. Křtěn was absent in Nebraska City and she was home alone with three children. A neighbor told her that a large number of Indians were coming that way and she saw them near the river. She was so frightened that a blood vessel burst and for three years she ailed, until death ended her suffering.

When my father-in-law paid taxes, he being the first to pay county taxes as already recorded, no official could be found who knew how to write the receipt. After some argument an old English soldier present made out the receipt and the form prepared by him was used until regular laws went into effect."

Mrs. Frank Jelínek, widow of Frank Jelínek, mentioned in the beginning of this chapter, writes:

"We started out from Manitowoc on October 5, 1865 and with our family travelled the families of my husband's brothers Joseph and Vít, his father Václav Jelínek, Joseph Hynek, Matěj and Frank Kubíček, Václav Kubíček and Jiří (George) Krajník and his mother. When we arrived in St. Joseph, Misouri, we found our baggage had not come. It was at the close of the Civil War, the trains were loaded with returning soldiers and freight, and so we had to wait three weeks before the missing articles turned up. One box, containing feather-beds and clothing, so badly needed, never did arrive. A scarlet fever epidemic was raging in St. Joseph and we lost a three-year-old boy, whom we buried in Arago. While we were waiting for our luggage, Václav Jelínek (the father), Václav Kubíček and Václav Šesták had gone ahead on foot, to prepare a shelter.



Václav Šesták

At last we were able to proceed on our journey of two hundred miles by wagon. Autumn had come with rainy, chilly weather. We had to stock up with provisions, for after leaving Nebraska City, there were no towns or settlements. We travelled two weeks before we reached our destination, for the roads were bad. When we came to the Big Blue river, we had to ford it, as our claims lay on the other side. The wagons were heavy, the bottom sandy. Even after harnessing together three teams to one wagon, it was desperate work, and we lost one of the two horses my husband had bought in St. Joseph. Hardly had we crossed when we met fourteen Indians on horses, and our fright may be imagined. However, all they wanted was tobacco and our men acceded to their wish with alacrity. Going a mile further, we came to the shelter prepared on our claim, a veritable hole in the ground, covered,

but without door or windows. It measured 10x14 and in it eighteen people lived all winter, crammed like sardines.

The third day after our arrival a bad snowstorm came on. Our abode filled with snow, which drifted high all around. Krajník had brought his old, ailing mother, who had become ill from travelling and for that reason was left in

Frank Křtěn

the wagon, on featherbeds. At that she was situated better than anything we could have done for her in the dug-out. She died the morning of the storm and there being no material for a coffin, the men broke up a wagon box and used the boards for that purpose. The horses, tethered outside, broke away and were found by our men two days later sixty miles away. A kindly Frenchman had found them and kept

them. In true pioneer fashion he would accept nothing for his service. This storm occurred on November 22nd, after which milder weather ensued, but under the circumstances the winter was a hard one at best.

Spring came early the next year (1866), in February, and brought fresh hope and energy. The settlers put in crops and helped one another. Two teams were harnessed to a plow and the breaking of the virgin soil begun. The women planted corn with the aid of hatchets. When provisions were needed, the men had to go to Nebraska City for them, a distance of seventy-five miles, requiring a week's time. Those who did not have teams had to walk. This was not uncommon in those times. It is recorded of Thomas Aron that later he made such a trip to Lincoln for flour, carrying the sack home all the way. All the country to the Missouri river was a waste. When the railroad built through Crete in 1871, Lincoln became a nearer market. During the absence of the men, the women, fearing Indians, congregated in one place for the night and barricaded themselves as well as they could. The redmen were numerous, hunting-bent, but peaceful and friendly. Sometimes they became angry when refused food, so scarce in general. Flour cost $18.00 to $20.00 per barrel, corn-meal was the substitute. There were no wells, water from the river had to suffice.

Joseph Jindra
He founded the Reading Society in Crete, in 1867, the first Czech club in the state.

After rains the river rose and crossing was a hardship. My husband had bought a little pig, the price being service, not money. The owner would sell it in no other way. So one day my husband set out to pay his debt. He put a plow in the wagon and began to ford the stream. When he reached the middle, the box was lifted off the wheels, these and the horses went shoreward and my husband in the box sailed down the current. He

saved himself by jumping out and swimming for the shore. The plow, so valuable to him, was never recovered.

Our men had each bought a load of corn and took it to Fort Kearney, where they sold it with good profit. Prospects for a good crop that year (1866) were bright, but the grasshoppers took everything except sorghum, that was all we had left. The next winter a heavy snow fell, and we had plenty of rabbit and prairie-chicken meat. These heavy snows caused an inundation in the spring and the settlers had to camp on the hills for two days and nights. It was still cold and their dug-out was filled with mud, a most cheerless state. As soon as the weather permitted more substantial dug-outs were built, of young trees, sod and dry grass. In one corner four posts were driven, young trees laid across and covered with grass, — that was the bed. In the other corner stood a packing box, — that was the table. Stumps and boxes served as chairs.

In 1866 we celebrated our first Fourth of July in Nebraska. We gathered on the farm of Václav Petráček, where we danced, sang, ate, drank and made merry. Petráček was the orchestra, he played for the dancers by pounding on a plow wheel. But that year the grasshoppers came, hordes of them. They ate everything in sight, except the sorghum, and covered the river so thickly that the only supply of drinking water was shut off for some time. The following spring a new breed was hatched, but was partly annihilated by the use of kerosene. In later years they came again, more than once, but did less damage.

In 1871 my husband was elected county commissioner and was instrumental in having a bridge built over the Big Blue river. In 1873 a tornado blew our house away, without loss of life. My brother-in-law, Joseph Jelínek (now living in Loup City) and I are the only ones left of the first band of Bohemian settlers in Saline County."

Czechs are lovers not only of music, singing and dancing, but also of drama and in any settlement of any size they give amateur theatricals frequently. The first performance of this kind in Saline County and probably in the state (with the exception of Omaha) was given by the Reading

Society, on the farm of John M. Svoboda, about two miles from Crete. A log house 16x22 served for the opera house, lighted by only two windows. The play given was "Rekrutýrka v Kocourkově" (Recruiting Soldiers In Kocourkov), with Joseph Jindra as stage manager and the following actors and actresses: John M. Svoboda, Frank Neděla, Vitus Jelínek, Frank Znamenáček, Václav Aksamit, Anton Heřman, Mrs. Elizabeth Aron and Miss Mary Neděla (later Mrs. Kubíček). Eight-year-old Barbara Neděla (now Mrs. Fr. Papík) took the part of a boy. Boards laid across two strong saw bucks served for a stage and a white calico curtain for the drop. Everybody came whose feet could carry him and everybody was satisfied with the performance, at the close of which the "stage" was carried out and a dance held. This took place in 1869.

Mrs. Mary Jelínek

The following is a partial list of settlers who followed the first, up to about 1870, in the same vicinity:

Martin Kupka came in 1866 (born in Mezné, Soběslav), all the way from Wisconsin with an ox-team and family of six children, without knowing one word of English. He had a cow tied to the wagon and the trip lasted three months. Mrs. Kupka died in Crete June 27, 1927, aged 98 years.

Kupka was accompanied by Václav Havlíček (born in Lhotka, Mělník, 1823), his wife and five children. Havlíček emigrated to Wisconsin in 1854 and in 1866 came to Nebraska by ox-team, locating on a homestead in Turkey Creek Precinct, eight miles southwest of Crete. Once, during their early pioneering days, Mrs. Havlíček suffered an accident that crippled her for life. Her son Anton was cutting hay, leading the ox-team by a rope. She brought lunch for him. The grass was high and she stepped near the scythe without realizing her danger, and thus suffered amputation of her

foot. There was no way to call a physician, so Anton borrowed a horse from his neighbor and hastened to Pleasant Hill. However, the physician was not at home, so he was obliged to ride to Crete. Mrs. Havlíček was very weak from loss of blood before the physician finally arrived, but she recovered and continued to perform her household duties with the aid of a wooden leg the rest of her life. In 1882 Havlíček and his family moved to Harper County, Kansas, locating on a farm near their daughter, Mrs. John Hess. Havlíček died May 10, 1907 and was buried in the Czechoslovak Cemetery west of Caldwell, Kansas. Mrs. Havlíček died October 27, 1915, at the ripe age of 89 years, and was laid to rest by her husband's side.

C. W. Havlíček, their son, was born in Wisconsin in 1865 and accompanied his parents to Nebraska. At the age of ten he began learning the jeweler's trade with his brother-in-law Joseph Kopecký (Kopetzky) in Crete and in 1887 established that business for himself. In 1911 he sold out and is now in the music business, at the same location. His son, Lumir C. Havlíček was born in Crete and is director of the 110th Medical Regiment Band, Nebraska National Guard, in Crete. It was the first unit of its kind to be organized west of the Mississippi River, and the members are mostly musicians of Bohemian descent. Lumír Havlíček was with the 355th Infantry Band, 89th Division, which served in France during the World War.

Václav Kostohryz came in 1869. He was born in Křeštovice, Písek, and lived in Arago and Aspinwall before coming to Saline County. In the fall of 1876 he was killed by a train while walking on the track. He came with his wife and daughter who later married Lawrence Svoboda, a pioneer. Mrs. Svoboda at the time of her coming was eight years old, but with the exception of Mr. Vilda and Joseph Hynek, she was the only other person among these Czechs able to speak English. Therefore she used to act as interpreter for them, going far and wide, often to Beatrice, where the land office was situated. It is interesting to note that one of her daughters, Mildred, living in Omaha, married J. N. Ball, a descendant of George Washington's mother and another

Mathilda, living in Los Angeles, Calif., married Dr. Leslie C. Audrain, a descendant of Lafayette's secretary. With her parents Mrs. Svoboda spent fourteen weeks on a sailing vessel on their way to this country and suffered lack of food and water. Mr. and Mrs. Svoboda have retired and are living in Wilber.

Joseph Kopecký came in 1868 from Nebraska City, where he had been employed as watchmaker. He was born in Jičín, Bohemia and died in Crete, where he had a jewelry store for many years. He took a homestead in Big Blue precinct and established there the first Czech store, four miles north of Wilber. It was on his place that the first commemoration of the burning of Jan Hus was held July 6, 1873, with Václav Šnajdr, then editor of the Pokrok Západu, speaker. On Kopecký's land was established the first wholly Czech cemetery, then called National, now called Big Blue. His wife Anna is living and remembers when Indians came for whiskey when she was alone. With great presence of mind she pointed to the vinegar keg. One quaff was enough. She accompanied her husband to Fort Kearney once and while there helped take care of wounded and scalped whites.

Čeněk Duras

Frank Dusil came in 1869. He had come to Arago first, from Jones County, Iowa. He was born in Podřezov near Kostelec and was killed by a runaway team July 13, 1873.

Čeněk Duras, born in Želenice, January 21, 1846, died in Wilber September 10, 1904. Mr. Duras was considered Nebraska's most distinguished Czech of his time. His forebears were French aristocrats, one of whom settled in Želenice, Bohemia, five hundred years ago, where his descendants have lived on the same estate since. Those of the French branch have achieved great distinction, two having

been Marshals of France. Mr. Duras' father, as an ardent Czech patriot during the revolution of 1848, was sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for a time. Mr. Duras was of very dignified presence and able mind, a fine speaker. He married Miss Mary Špirk, in Chicago, later lived a short time in Omaha, then in Crete and finally in Wilber. He was our first state senator (1887) at a time when that was a great honor for a foreign-born citizen. He served two terms as county treasurer of Saline County; he was a presidential elector and nominated, although not elected, for Secretary of State, always on the republican ticket.

Peter Šafařík, born in Merklín 1830, came to Dayton, Ohio, in 1866, to Chicago in 1868, then to Crete and in 1873 to Wilber. He died in Wilber December 21, 1921; Frank David, birthplace unknown; Frank and Matěj Plachý, born in Zabrdovice, Ml. Boleslav; Václav and Vincenc Aksamít, born in Pavlov, Unhošt. Their brother Anton settled in Lancaster County.

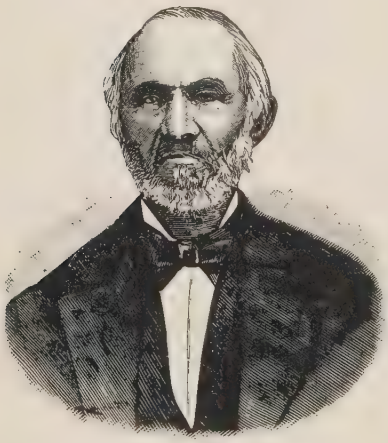
Matěj Prachejl, born in Voseček. Came in 1866, having lived during the previous year in Arago. He was a tailor by trade, but had almost no work in those times, for no one could afford to have clothing made. He took a homestead and at times someone would do a little plowing for him in return for tailoring. He was the father of Mrs. Joseph Jindra.

Frank Tichý, born in Velké Přítočno; Jiří (George) Zvoníček, came to Iowa in 1866, to Saline County 1871, died in Wilber December 15, 1924; Alois Bouchal, born in Ústí nad Orlicí; Václav Brůža, born in Netěš near Roudnice; M. Jirotka, born in Velké Přítočno; Eman Kostlán, born in Bratříkov, Železný Brod; Anton Prokop, born in Podřezov, Kostelec; Joseph Daič, born in 1848 in Dubá near Praha; Joseph Jindra, born 1835 in Bechyň, died in Crete 1895.

Robert Jacob Šáry (Shary) born June 6, 1832 in Praha, came to Wisconsin in 1853 or 1854. In 1862 was living in Cook County, Illinois, and having made an exploration trip, he thought well of Nebraska. He wrote to his friend John

Heřman in Wisconsin, who came with his family to Arago and there both men settled, conducting a tavern. Later they moved to Aspinwall and still later to Saline County. In Wilber Shary had a brewery, for he came of a very well known and wealthy family of brewers in Praha (Prague), where for years their large summer garden was famous. Shary was of good family and with Heřman came to this country to escape political oppression. However, it was his fate to end his days in a monarchy. One of his sons had settled in Ponoka, Alberta, Canada, and there Shary died April 12, 1903.

Matěj (Mike) Korbel came in 1873. He was born in 1847 near Třeboň. He arrived in Chicago and as a sixteen-year-old lad became a member of Company B, 17th. Illinois, during the Civil War. Died in Wilber in April 1926.



John Heřman

Frank Znamenáček, born September 14, 1844 in Mačovice near Vranov. Came to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1862 and worked there in a bakery, attending school in the evenings to learn English. At that time several Bohemian families were living there, among them Boháček, who later lived in Wilber. When Znamenáček had saved some money, he sent for his parents and they all settled in St. Louis, Mo., in 1865. There Znamenáček worked in a rope factory. In 1868 with seven other families he came by boat to Nebraska City, where they made entries. He was the first teacher of a public school, of Bohemian birth, in our state, as described in the chapter on teachers, and one of the participants in the first play given near Crete. In 1873 he married Anna Zajíček. Twelve children were born to them. During a terrible diptheria epidemic

in the eighties four died in one week. Mr. Znamenáček is still living. His brother Joseph was a pioneer also.

Joseph and Thomas Kovářík, born in Havlovice near Domažlice. They built the first saloon and dance hall on their farm, which burned down in 1879. Their dug-out for many years remained as a memento of pioneer days.

Frank Musil, born in Krucemburk; John Kobes, Havlovice; Anton Šantin, birthplace unknown; Frank Vocásek, unknown; Anton Křtěn, Libšice; Frank Štainochr, Soběslav, Tábor; Joseph Kadlec, birthplace unknown; Václav and Karel Králíček, unknown; John Girmus, Chalupy, Skrýchov; Václav Skolil, unknown.

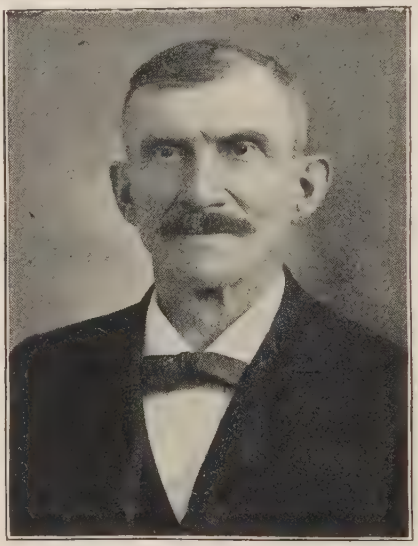
John and Frank Průša, born in Ctiněves near Říp. John, a widower, his brother Frank with family, were brothers of Mrs. Václav Brůža of Saline County. They suffered great hardship coming over on a sailing vessel, which was blown far out of its course by storms, so that they spent six months on the sea. The passengers suffered famine. A barrel of old grease for greasing shoes was kept below, but when nothing except rice was left, this grease was used to flavor it. Nearly everyone was covered with vermin.

Robt. J. Shary

A list of other pioneers, distributed as to towns and precincts, is given at the end of this chapter.

Czechs are lovers of music and as soon as even a dozen settle in any neighborhood, they quickly form a band, and play well. So it is not surprising that the Saline County pioneers did the same. The first band was that organized in Chicago by John Neděla, father of Frank Neděla, long a prominent inhabitant of Crete. Frank Neděla was born in Mšeno, Mělník, April 30, 1842 and died in Crete, January 4, 1924. Besides these two the band consisted of Thomas Aron, Joseph Chyba and John M. Svoboda, all having played together in Chicago whence they came. At the time it was the

only band west of the Missouri river and played for Governor Butler's last inauguration. Before the railroad reached Crete, these musicians rode by wagon to Lincoln, and considered themselves well paid, for each man received $8.00 for his playing and the driver (owner of the team) $16.00, half for the team and half for his playing. Mrs. Frank Jelínek's son Stephen, then a little boy, later became a talented cornetist and served as bandmaster in a U. S. military band in Porto Rico and the Phillippine Islands. Frank Neděla as a young man had served in a military band in the Austrian army and had gone through the Schleswig-Holstein war (1864) and the Prussian-Austrian war (1866). In 1867 he came to Chicago and the following year located in Johnson County, Nebraska, but returned to Chicago and in 1869 came to Saline County, where he settled on a homestead. Until 1871, when the railroad came, he used to go afoot to Lincoln, during one whole winter, working there at his shoemaking trade, to earn the necessary $200 for pre-emption. Many Bohemians walked many miles in those days and thought nothing of it. He died a wealthy man.



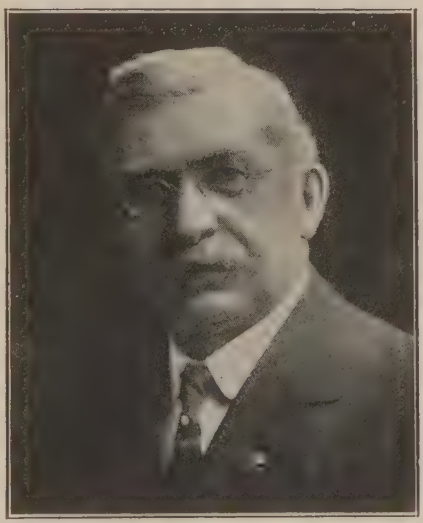
Frank Neděla

Wilber was established in 1873 and became, with its vicinity, a thriving Czech community. In fact it soon outstripped Crete, as to the town population, for it is almost entirely Czech. The first house was put up by Henry Clark the postmaster and used as a postoffice. Prior to that the postoffice was located in Tobias Castor's cabin, south of town, called Blue Island, then on Sanford Harrod's farm, a mile north of Wilber. While Henry Clark was postmaster

of Blue Island (the mail was brought twice a week on horseback) he had for his assistant a Czech, Alois G. Mallat (born in Humpolec, July 26, 1851, arrived in Chicago October 9, 1871, to Crete in 1873 and in 1874 made assistant postmaster. He then engaged in business in Wilber and later moved to Nora, Nuckolls County, Nebr., where he lives at date of writing). The next building was put up by a Mr. Wormley, and the next by John Goodin, being the nucleus of the town, which was incorporated April 25, 1879 and named for C. D. Wilber, who with Jacob Mowery owned the land on which it is situated. Mowery got his as a homestead and Wilber bought railroad land. The branch road was finished in 1872 and at first was called the Omaha & Southwestern Railroad. Stephen Heřman, son of John Heřman, was a member of the first town board.

Some of the Pioneers of Wilber Were:

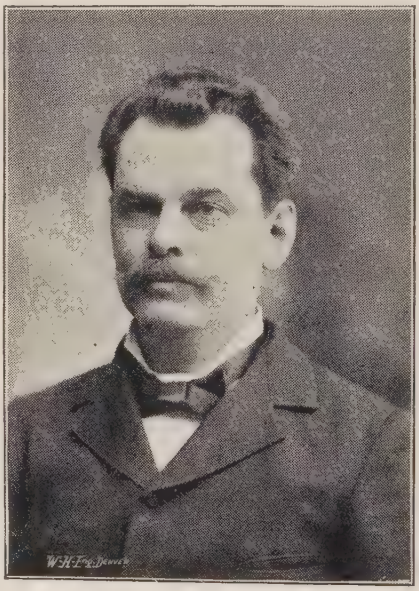
John Heřman, born in a mill near Nebužele, in 1812. He was a very wealthy and prominent man there, a member of the parliament and of a delegation sent to interview the emperor. He took part in the revolution of 1848 and being persecuted was obliged to flee to this country in 1853. He was considered the richest immigrant that ever came here, for he brought with him 80,000 gulden to Wisconsin, but lost it through unfortunate v e n tu r e s. In 1864 he came to Arago, then for a while lived in Aspinwall and about 1868 came to Wilber, where he died July 11, 1888. All old timers remember him as a generous, kindly and helpful friend. His son Anton J. was the first Czech



Fr. J. Sadílek

county treasurer there (1869—1877) and another son, Stephen J., was a member of the legislature in 1881.

Frank J. Sadílek, born in Ledeč, 1851, came to Chicago in 1868, to Wilber in 1877, where he has lived continuously with the exception of two years. He is well known all over the state among his people, especially as a speaker, for no man has officiated at more funerals than he, inasmuch as Czech Liberals usually have lodge services and a non-sectarian speaker. Mr. Sadílek also has written much for Czech papers in the way of reminiscences and on various subjects of the day. Has held many political offices, — county treasurer 1888—1891, registrar of deeds 1898—1919, presidential elector 1896 — republican. Married Theresa Jurka of Chicago.



John F. Špirk

John F. Špirk, born in Merklín, July 27, 1858, for years a popular notary public and general kindly advisor to his countrymen. No man in the county was more beloved. In 1881 he was nominated to the office of County Treasurer and when elected at the age of twenty-two was probably the youngest county treasurer in the state. He held in his time many municipal and lodge offices. About 1917 he moved with his family to Los Angeles, where he lives at date of writing. Mrs. Špirk was Anna, daughter of J. K. Schuessler.

Anton Shimonek, who came in 1871, was born in Nebužele, near Mělník, in 1847 and came to Wisconsin with his parents in 1854.

Frank Apfelbeck, who came in 1876, was born in Kout, near Nová Kdyně, in 1848.

Joseph Rychtařík, born 1838 in Sopotnice.

John Zvoníček Sr., born in Ostašovice near Kostelec nad Orlicí. Came to Iowa in 1856, to Saline County in 1874. His son John, who died in Wilber in 1926, was a well known miller there and in De Witt.

Frank Rychtařík, born 1847 in Záměly near Kostelec.

Frank Šabata, born 1827 in Dlouhá Ves near Rychnov. Came to Jones County, Iowa in 1854, later to Saline.

Anton Chaloupka, born in Častolovice.

Václav Beck, born February 11, 1826 in Podřezov. Died in Wilber August 10, 1900.

Joseph Zvoníček, brother of John Sr.

Karel Ságl, born in Zahrádka near Ledeč, where he returned to die in 1916.

Jos. K. Schuessler, born 1833 in Luže, Chrudim. Came to Wilber from Chicago in 1877 and died there a few years ago. An excellent teacher of singing and dramatics and a thorough musician.

Joseph Draský, born 1839 in Kostelec nad Orlicí. Died in Wilber.

Joseph and William Sr. Boháček, born in Černý Kostelec. In the early sixties they lived in Cincinnati. Joseph Boháček's wife Mary was a step-sister of the famous Czech writer Jan Neruda. She died in Wilber April 17, 1894 and is buried in the Bohemian cemetery there.

F. J. Švehla, born November 5, 1845 in Albrechtice. Came to Saline County in 1868, at the head of a caravan of settlers. In 1869, while away in Lincoln with a load of wheat, a prairie fire destroyed his home, only a hole in the ground remained. It was in this fire that nine school-children met death, none were Czech however.

Alois Borecký, born 1852 in Mančice, Čáslav, came in 1875.

Jacob Průcha, born 1857 in Stříbec near Třeboň, came in 1873.

John K. Mallat (Malát), born 1850 in Humpolec, came to Wahoo in 1874, then to Crete and then to Wilber. Died in Glendale, California, May 31, 1926.

John J. Mallat, his cousin, born 1856 in Humpolec. Came to Saline County in 1874. Died in Wilber a few years ago. For years he and John K. Mallat conducted a general merchandise store in Wilber.

Beginning with 1875 the Czech settlements began to grow all over the county. The town of Wilber and Big Blue, Brush Creek, North Fork and Pleasant Hill precincts are practically entirely Czech.

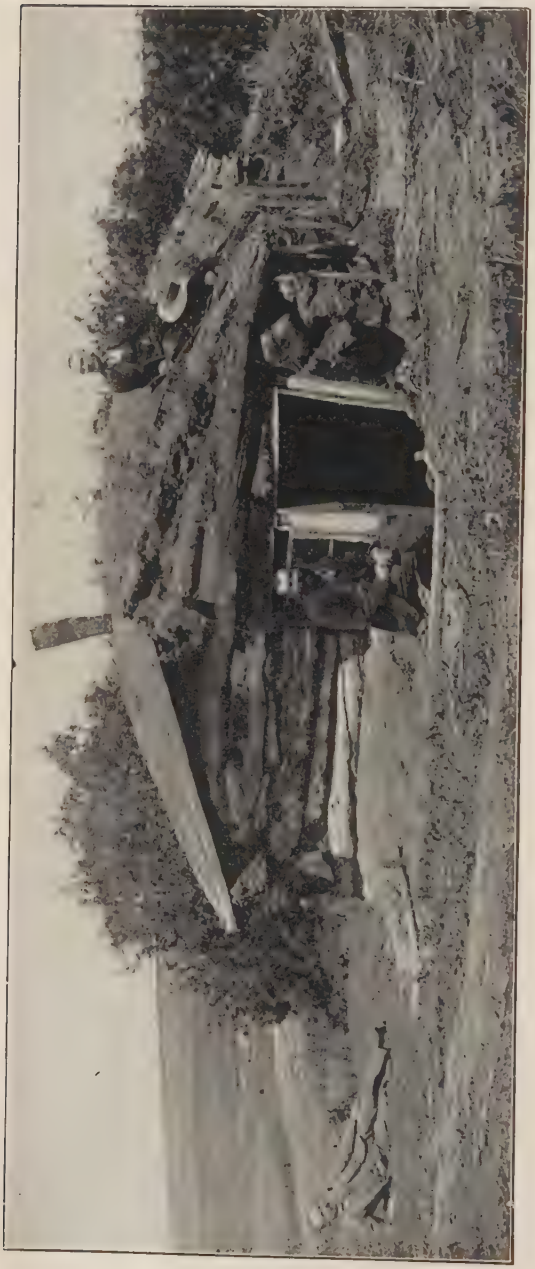
The following are some of the early pioneers of the towns or precincts as listed.

CRETE:

Ed. J. Steidl, druggist, birthplace unknown; Joseph Brabec, blacksmith, Merklín; Tomáš Kolouch, clerk, Sázava, Přibyslav; Filip Kolouch, tailor, Sázava, Přibyslav; Frank Veleba, tailor, Nihov, Tišnov; Joseph Adámek, wagon maker, Úboč, Nová Kdyně; Jakub Šimánek, wagon maker, Němčice, Nová Kdyně; John and Tomáš Daniel, carpenters, Sázava, Přibyslav; Joseph Bělka, in lumberyard, Kostelec nad Orlicí; Vojtěch Bulín, in lumberyard, Dolany, Klatovy; Joseph Špirk, retired, Merklín, Plzeň; Václav Kolářík, laborer, Únovice, Nová Kdyně; Matěj Čada, shoemaker, unknown; Karel Aron, tailor, Poděbrady.

DE WITT:

Jindřich (Henry) Špirk, in store, Merklín, Plzeň.



Kovářík brothers' dugout near Crete

FRIEND:

Frank Pták, in store, Podolí, Písek; Matěj Trepka, blacksmith, Ratiboř, Jindřichův Hradec; Joseph Urban, wagon maker, Svárov, Unhošť; Anton Beruška, musician, Černoušek, Roudnice.

PLEASANT HILL:

Joseph Ledl, saloon, Kostelec nad Orlicí; M. Zirhut, saloon, Bezděkov, Klatovy; Joseph Brabec, blacksmith, unknown.

TOBIAS:

Rudolf Uldrich, saloon, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; John Krisl, blacksmith, Dobříč, Kralovice; Frank Musil, general merchandise, Krucemburk, Chotěboř; Frank Nerud, drug store, Novosedly, Lomnice nad Luž.; John Trčka, wheelwright, Soběslav, Tábor; Frank Krešl, laborer, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; Cyril Kus, laborer, Lhota, Strakonice.

WILBER:

William Boháček Jr., barber, Černý Kostelec; Joseph Šesták, saloon, Milwaukee, Wis.; John Zvoníček, hardware, later mill, Ostašovice, Kostelec; Alois G. Mallat, early partner of J. K. & J. J. Mallat, Humpolec; Fr. Klofanda, druggist, unknown; John H. Brt, druggist, Soběslav, Tábor; Frank Charvát, bartender, Doudleby, Kostelec; Kateřina (Catherine) Růžička, hotel, Újezd, Domažlice; Václav Pospíšil, saloon, Hlízov, Kutná Hora; Frank Kasal, bartender, Krucemburk, Chotěboř; Václav Šafránka, saloon, Bělá, Meziříč; Joseph Havlovic, blacksmith, Kouty, Domažlice; Jiří (George) Hrubý, harness maker, Hudlice, Beroun; Frank Pužej, harness maker, Dožice, Blatná; William Trčka, saloon, Sázava, Benešov; Max Štorkan, baker, Klatovy, Plzeň; Anton Fridrich, blacksmith, Záměly, Kostelec; John Poupě, cigar maker, Církvice, Kutná Hora; Anton J. Hanyš, tailor, Litomyšl, Chrudím; Václav Vondra, butcher, Zvěstovice, Habry; Frank Vokoun, butcher, unknown; Filip Synovec, unknown; Joseph Holub, unknown; Frank Štěpánek, harness maker, Dlouhá Ves, Rychnov nad Kněžnou; Anton Tvrz, carpenter, Křivoklát; Vojta (Albert) and Frank Mrkvička, carpenters, Čáslav; Joseph Tobiška, musician, Javornice, Rychnov; Joseph Kotyza, cemetery sexton, Doudleby, Kostelec; Joseph K. Bartoš, Javornice, Rychnov; Ignác Cecha, retired, Ústí nad Orlicí, Chrudim; Joseph Haluza, Komná, Uherský Brod.

John Novák (Newer) and his brother Frank came to Wilber in 1875. John, the elder, had a saloon. He was very strong and liked to measure his strength with anyone he thought his equal. Later these brothers had a saloon in Friend. While attending a picnic in Fillmore County they were both shot in a fight and buried in Friend August 21, 1885. Their brother George lives in Oklahoma.

Joseph Rubeš, wheelwright, from near Kralovice; Joseph Bouška, retired, Borovany, Klatovy; J. Dvořák, wheelwright, unknown; Joseph Vaněk, saloon, Újezd, Domažlice; John Vrána, laborer, Křeč, Tábor; Fr. Vítovec, laborer, unknown; Edmund Láb, Kostelec, Králové Hradec; Joseph Plíhal, laborer, Třížov, Chotěboř; Václav B. Průcha, laborer, Tachlovice, Smíchov; Matěj Vandas, blacksmith, unknown; Joseph Melcer, unknown; Frank Seidl, blacksmith, unknown; Anton Mašinda, druggist, unknown; Stephen Heřman and Edward Beck, general mer

chandise and hardware, unknown; William Trčka, butcher, Sázava, Benešov; M. B. Hokuf, unknown. An excellent musician. He built the first Czech dance hall in Wilber. Died a few years ago in California.

ATLANTA PRECINCT:

John Bárta, Chalupy, Skrýchov, Tábor; Frank Soukup, Skalice, Soběslav; Frank Horlivý, Předboř, Soběslav; Joseph Švec, Radlice, Dačice; John Krisl Sr., Dobříč, Kralovice; John Tenopír, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; Frank Nohava, Ponědraž, Lomnice; Isidor Laun, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; John Bedlán, Hrdlořezy, Třeboň; John Král, unknown; Joseph Baxa Sr., Nadryby, Plzeň; Joseph Slezák, Bezděkov, Blatná; Anton Ženíšek, Černice, Plzeň; Matěj Vejraška, Loděnice, Nové Strašecí; Matouš Jech, Lhota, Soběslav; John Kus Sr., Lhota, Strakonice; Joseph Klecan, Bezděkov, Blatná.

BIG BLUE PRECINCT:

Frank Boháč, Záměl, Kostelec; Joseph Šébl, Chramostek, Mělník; Kajetán (Guy) Marcelino. Although a Portugese by birth, he married a Czech and he and his family spoke the language; Matěj Nohavec, Třebejsinka, Klatovy; Joseph Kopecký. Later jeweler in Crete. Jičín; Frank Pomajzl, Úhonice, Unhošt; Frank Kůželka, Mečeříž, Nové Benátky; John Bayer, Staré Benátky, Nové Benátky; Joseph Kovářík, Havlovice, Domažlice; Joseph Prachejl, Oseček, Poděbrady; Frank Trník, Stejska, Jindř. Hradec; John Salinger, Lažany, Horaždovice; Matěj Fritz, Jivno, Lišov; Joseph Čížek, Netřeby, Mělník; Vojta Vosika, Roseč, Jindř. Hradec; Eduard Dusil, Podřezov, Kostelec; Joseph Burgoň, unknown; John Veselý, unknown; Anton Fitl, Polště, Jindř. Hradec; Fr. Zajíček, Vrutice, Nové Benátky; Václav Petráček, Velké Zboží, Poděbrady; Joseph Skočpol, Údolnice, Benešov; John Korbel, born 1803 in Hrdlořezy, Třeboň, died in Wilber 1897; Frank Papík Sr., Mšeno, Mladá Boleslav; Joseph Kulhánek Sr., Dolní Újezd; Ignác Volešenský, Vojtěchov, Mšeno; Matěj Formánek, from near Beroun; Jakub Kalčík, Němčice, Nová Kdyně; Václav Fink, Dolní Bělá, Manetín; Ferdinand Vondrejs, Humpolce, Čáslav; John Brabec, Chlumec, Třeboň; John Neděla, Mšeno, Mělník; Václav Gerner, Sedlec, Mělník; Tomáš (Thomas) Aron, Poděbrady; John Dunder, Hostouň, Unhošť; John Andelt, Mšeno, Mělník; Matěj Vávra, Mirošovice, Černý Kostelec; Joseph Kočí, Hyskov, Beroun; Joseph Princ, Ratiboř, Jindř. Hradec; John Musil, Senětín, Čáslav; Joseph Krupička, Mečíř, Zbirov; Anton Zajíček, Medový Újezd, Hořovice; Josefa Pavlíková, Štěchovice, Strakonice; Frank Pecka, Kbely, Nové Benátky; Jakub Šrajhans, Roseč, Jindř. Hradec; Tomáš Plachý, Zabrdovice u Křínce; Joseph Pomajzl, Úhonice, Unhošť; Joseph Kubeš, Osek, Milevsko; John Šindelář, Květov, Milevsko; Petr Ploužek, from near Klatovy; Joseph Chalupa, Červený Újezd, Unhošť; Matěj Tichý, Velké Přítočno, Unhošť.

BRUSH CREEK PRECINCT:

Anton Šimonek, unknown; Frank Prokop Sr., Podřezov, Kostelec; Václav Hájek, Jeníkovice, Kral. Hradec; Jakub Režný, Úboč, Nová Kdyně; Václav Truka, Čáslav; Adam Karman, Kamenice, Horš. Týn; Fr. Stach, Kardašova Řečice; Václav Joura, Čečelice, Mělník; Joseph Koreš, Hosín, Hluboká; Fr. Fencl, Vydříž, Jindř. Hradec; Fr. Kunc Sr., Opařany, Bechyně; Fr. Režný, Úboč, Nová Kdyně; John Chab, Polště,

Jindř. Hradec; Václav Vrba, Kanice, Nová Kdyně; John Plaček, Sokoleč, Poděbrady; Adam Truka, Sekryt, Klatovy; John Košťál, unknown; Matěj and Jakub Fictum, Čermná, H. Týn; Fr. Soldát, Zahrádka, Milevsko; Fr. Kostlán, Zderaz, Skuč; John Kubovec, unknown; John Vostřez Sr., Vyhnanov, Kostelec; J. Pekař, unknown; Jos. Přeslička, unknown; Jos. Kubrt, Roveň, Rychnov; Anton Waněk, Kardašova Řečice; Jos. Vosyka, Roseč, Jindř. Hradec; Fr. Chab, Polště, Jindř. Hradec; Jos. Sláma, Tři Studně, Nové Město, Morava; Jos. Brajer, Chorušice, Mělník; John Honzík, Vysoká, Mělník; Jakub Bláha, Polště, Jindř. Hradec; Petr Štěrba, Štichov, Hor. Týn; Fr. Šašek, Jehnědno, Písek; Jos. Karpíšek, Jezvina, Sedlec; John Valeš, Božetice, Milevsko; Tomáš Houser, Březí, Písek; Pavel Červenka, Nedvědice, Mirov; Eman Knap, unknown; Filip Tyšer, Božkov, Plzeň; John Bárta, Nové Dvory, Milevsko; J. Pivoňka, unknown; Jos. Dvořáček, Roveň, Kunštát; Tomáš Jelínek, Novosedly, Lomnice; John Brož Sr., Kamenice, Horš. Týn; Tomáš Táchovský, Křečovice, Horš. Týn; Matěj Šťastný, Křenovice, Milevsko; Jakub Janouch, Stejska, Jindř. Hradec; Anton Vycina, Králové Městec; V. Bosák, Stejska, Jindř. Hradec; Jos. Sukovatý, Stíchov, Horš. Týn; Martin Šimon, Křečovice, Horš. Týn; Václav Červený, Letiny.

CRETE PRECINCT:

Josef Keller Sr., unknown; Rudolf Gerner, Sedlec, Mělník; Václav Kučera, Zbečno, Křivoklát; Bartoloměj Brt, Lhota, Soběslav; Anton Bělka, Kostelec nad Orlicí; Jos. Volešenský, Vojtěchov, Mšeno; Frank Hercog, Sokoleč, Poděbrady.

DE WITT PRECINCT:

Jos. Kaura, Hradecko, Královice; Wolfgang Halada, Kouty, Domažlice; Lawrence Svoboda, Kouty, Domažlice.

DORCHESTER PRECINCT:

Frank Justa, Neteš, Roudnice. Justa was a member of a marine band in Trieste, Dalmatia, in the eighteen-sixties, when archduke Maxmilian lived with his wife Charlotta in the castle of Miramar. As students of history know, this archduke was executed in Mexico, in 1867, when he sought to become emperor of that country. This Austrian archduke was very democratic and entertained the members of the band on his yacht, on the Adriatic Sea, Justa being one of the guests also. Empress Charlotta lost her mind and lived to a great age, dying in 1926.

Jos. Nohavec, Třebejtín, Klatovy; Jos. Kučera, Skrýchov, Tábor.

MONROE PRECINCT:

John Pšikal, Podolí, Tišnov; Jos. Andrle, Zahořany, Nová Kdyně; Václav Čochnař, Opatovice, Čáslav; Jos. Sysel, Lhotka, Klatovy; John Jirsa, Krty, Strakonice; Martin Máca, Roseč, Jindř. Hradec; Josefa Nesporý, Polště, Jindř. Hradce; Viktor Mika, Krta, Strakonice; Václav Brýdl, Peklo, Vysoké Mýto; Martin Bedlán, Hrdlořezy, Třeboň; Tomáš Divoký, Hrdlořezy, Třeboň; Matěj Burda, Bor, Třeboň; Jos. Kadlec, Tajanov, Klatovy; Jos. Sláma, Tři Studně, Nové Město, Morava; Jos. Brůha, Poborovice, Klatovy; Prokop Bednář Sr., Pistina, Jindř. Hradec; Václav and John Kohout, Rudoltice, Nová Kdyně.

NORTH FORK PRECINCT:

Frank Dušánek, Uhersko, Choceň; Marie Najmon, Jeneč, Unhošť; John Divoký Sr., Hrdlořezy, Třeboň; Karel Kozák, Jeneč, Unhošť; Jos. Burda, Bor, Třeboň; Tomáš Vosoba, Oxford Junction, Iowa; Eman Havelka, Milwaukee, Wis.; Jos. Filip, Řečice, Nové Město, Morava; Frank Michl, Orlová, Choceň; Anton Filip, Řečice, Nové Město, Morava; Frank Horák, Chejně, Unhošť; John Šusták, Řečice, Nové Město, Morava; Bart. Zoubek, Starec, Domažlice; Fr. Voříšek, Hrušová, Vysoké Mýto; Vojta Boček, Plavsko, Jindř. Hradec; Tomáš Havelka, Milwaukee, Wis.; Frank Kratochvil, Kardašova Řečice; Jos. Sobotka, Bobrová, Jihlava; John Rejšek, Štěchovice, Strakonice; Jos. Valenta, Vyskytná, Pelhřimov; Václav Sládek, Zruč, Královice; John Duba Sr.

Modern farm home (V. Schleis) near Wilber

and sons, Opatov, Humpolec; Frank Klásek, Mezimostí, Veselí; Jos. Petrášek, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; John Homolka Sr. and sons, Nový Rychnov, Pelhřimov; John Radil, Vlkaneč, Habry; Fr. Boř Sr. and sons, Štěchovice, Strakonice; Fr. Kučera, Nový Rychnov, Pelhřimov; Jos. Sokolík, Polště, Jindř. Hradec; Jos. B. Musil, Vlkov, Veselí; Petr Zoubek, Stareč, Domažlice.

OLIVE PRECINCT:

Adolf Dlouhý, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; Václav Veselý, Kaňk, Kutná Hora; Jos. Lorenz, Novákovice, Klatovy; Matěj Mařík, Malé Přítočno, Unhošť; Frank Stejskal, Bechyně, Tábor.

PLEASANT HILL PRECINCT:

Fr. Dudek, birthplace unknown; Jos. Táborek, unknown; Jos. and Václav Matějka, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; Frank and Anton Zumpfe, Kru-

cemburk, Chotěboř; Jos. Kašpar, near Kostelec nad Orlicí; Václav and Tomáš Nerud, Novosedly, Lomnice nad Luž; Frank Písař, Stejska, Jindř. Hradec; John Kubíček, Soběslav; John Pavliš, near Jindřichův Hradec; Václav Renner, Mšeno, Mělník; Václav Prokop Sr., Podřezov, Kostelec; Vojtěch Lisec, Lažany, Horažďovice; Vojtěch Kaštánek, Hatín, Jindř. Hradec; John Vojta, Podoly, Prachatice; Václav Kostečka, Sv. Majdalena, Třeboň; John Brýdl Sr., Peklo, Litomyšl; Václav Záleský, Peklo, Litomyšl; Jos. Šmejlíř, Netřeby, Litomyšl; John Kotouč, Krucemburk, Chotěboř; Fr. Dvořák, Merklovice, Kostelec; John Doležal, unknown; Frank Novák, Vlhčice, Milevsko; John Friouf, Džbánov, Vysoké Mýto; Tomáš Pašek, Přeštice.

SWAN CREEK PRECINCT:

Frank Slepička, Údraž, Písek; Frank Hynouš, Březí, Písek; Jos. Častoral, Křestovice, Písek; Václav Semilský, Stránka, Mělník; Ludvík Svoboda, Kouty, Domažlice; John Kusý, Malé Přítočno, Unhošť; Frank Houser, Březí, Písek; John Šimerda, Slemeno, Rychnov; Hynek Hána, Tlumačov, Domažlice; Jakub Švára, Kouty, Domažlice.

TURKEY CREEK PRECINCT:

Matěj and Frank Štech, Skalice, Soběslav; J. Doupník, unknown; Matěj Šimáček, Žichovice, Sušice; Pavel Bůzek, Brandlín, Dačice; John Čudlý, Radlice, Dačice; Frank Rohla, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; John Holpuch, Chlum, Blovice; Jos. Kouba, Radlice, Dačice; Jos. Vnouček, Pyšely, Jílové; John and Václav Volák, Srbice, Nová Kdyně; Jos. Klecan, Bezděkov, Blatná; John Vrba, Mimov, Horš. Týn; Joseph W. Prokop, Vamberk u Rychnova, born Oct. 30, 1859, came to Saline County in 1869, having come first to Jones County, Iowa, in 1865.

WILBER PRECINCT:

Matěj and Jiří (George) Hynek, Zahořany, Nová Kdyně; Václav Vilda, Střemy, Mělník; Jos. Fišer, Šimburk, Turnov; Filip Hofman, Kouty, Domažlice; Jos. Vít, Přeslavky, Benešov; Václav Vocásek, Opočnice, Králův Městec; Fr. Tábůrek, Podřezov, Kr. Hradec; Jos. Svoboda, Kouty, Domažlice; Fr. Říha, Kbely, Nové Benátky; Jos. Jiskra, Městečko, Křivoklát; Frank and Tomáš Kubíček, Soběslav, Tábor; Václav Kastl, Přeštice, Plzeň; John Kohel, Zahořany, Nová Kdyně; John and Václav Vozáb, Lešany, Mělník; Vojt. Javorský, Hrnčíře, Ml. Vožice; Vít. Fritz, Jivno, Lišov; Jakub Hulec, unknown; Jakub Kohel, Zahořany, Nová Kdyně; Václav Šenfeld, from near Mělník; Jos. Chmelíř, Stankov, Plzeň; Jindřich (Henry) Chaloupka, Častolovice, Kr. Hradec; Fr. Šefčík, unknown; Fr. Mareš, unknown; John Šáry, unknown; Fr. Váňa, unknown; A. V. Hlava (now living in Ravenna); Fr. Kácl, mention of his death by freezing elsewhere; John Zajíček Sr., Staré Benátky, Ml. Boleslav; Jos. Rychtářík Sr., Záměly, Kostelec nad Orlicí; Jos. Šalda, Vysoká; Jos. Várta, Nová Kdyně, Plzeň; Karel Borecký, Mančice; Václav Šlajs, unknown; Andreas Řežábek, Ratkovice, Nepomuk. He was the first sexton of the Bohemian cemetery in Wilber. Jakub and Frank Kobes, Havlovice, Domažlice.

All pioneers in an unsettled country must struggle with lack of nearly everything that makes life easier, medical

care not excepted. As an example of that we cite the case of Mrs. Jacob Šimon, pioneer near Crete, who lay ill for thirteen weeks without professional medical attention. There was no physician in the place and no way of getting one from a distance, home remedies had to suffice. Miss Anna Hynek, who married John Zvoníček Jr. (later well known miller of Wilber) and whose father was Joseph Hynek, one of the earliest pioneers, used to work in the field along with the men. Twice she was stung by a rattlesnake and although she endured much suffering, she recovered without the aid of a doctor. In the fall of 1875 a young woman immigrant came to her parents (Hyneks). She was afflicted with smallpox, but no one was aware of it. About that time occurred the wedding of Miss Hynek and Mr. Zvoníček and the entire company, including the bride and groom, was infected with the disease. Fourteen people, adults and children, died of it. There was no doctor available and home nursing was the best anyone could give.

In the winter of 1882 a diptheria epidemic raged through the county. Anti-toxin was not known then and many children died. Thomas Pašek lost four children in one week, two in one day, Frank Znamenáček four in two weeks. John Trepka lost several children. Joseph Moudrý came in to Wilber for a coffin and before he got home, a second child had died.

Another example of pioneer hardships is the following:

Frank Kácl, born in Hostivice near Praha, came from St. Louis, Mo. with Frank Váňa in 1868. He was a hunchback and asthmatic. They took homesteads adjoining each other. In 1870 or 1871 Kácl went with John Brajer to Pawnee County, to work, afoot. Having earned a little money, they set out for home, again afoot, during very cold weather. Kácl's strength gave out, he sat down to rest about fifteen or twenty miles from Beatrice, and there froze to death. He was frozen so stiff that his arm, which he had extended, had to be taken off before the body could be placed in the coffin.

Another instance:

Mrs. Václav Tichý, living in Wilber, was Mary Aksamit, daughter of Anton Aksamit, pioneer of Lancaster Coun-

Main Street, Wilber. An entirely Czech town.

ty. In August 1868, as a seven-year-old child, with her brother Anton, a year and a half older, she followed her brother Joseph out where he was herding cattle. They could not see him in the tall grass and were lost. The father sought them and called them all night long and for several days following, then gave them up for dead. He thought the wolves had eaten them. A compatriot named Pomajzl was working for a German settler and he brought word that the children had come there, but he had led them out on the road again, thinking they would go home. Later another German settler told of two children wandering about his vicinity. He said they were hungry and their clothing torn, he gave them bread and sent them on. He told Aksamit the direction they had taken, so the latter searched there and found them purely by accident. They were sleeping in the high grass. Their clothing was in tatters, torn by the sharp arnica grass, which had badly scratched their bodies. They were so weak they could not walk, for they had lived mainly upon roots and the little bread they had received. The father took Mary on his back, carried her a way, then set her down and carried Anton, and thus proceeded until he got them home. They had been absent eleven days.

As stated elsewhere in this chapter, the first Czech band in the county was that of Frank Neděla. The next oldest is that of Thomas (Tomáš) Pašek in Wilber and Pašek undoubtedly is the oldest Czech bandmaster in the state, for he has been practicing his profession for sixty-six years. He was born in 1849 in Přeštice, Bohemia, studied music while going to school and at the age of twelve already took his part in the band. In 1866 he came to St. Louis. Mo. and was active as a musician. In 1873 he came to Saline County, settling on a farm nine miles northwest of Wilber. During the first year he and John Veselý constituted the band that played at farm dances. Pašek played the cornet and Veselý the clarionet, and the young folks danced on the grass. Soon thereafter Pašek was able to get together a very good, full band, which became known not only in the county, but in many other Czech settlements and is still thus active. The first personnel consisted of the following:

Thomas Pašek, Eman Knap, John Friouf, John Veselý, Frank Slepička, A. V. Hlava, John Vojta and Vincenc Kaštánek. At first these men walked to their destination, each carrying his instrument. They played from evening until dawn, for $3.00 each, and in the morning returned home the way they came.

Thomas Pašek has taught many pupils and made them into good musicians. He is now past 78 years of age, but music is still his vocation and delight. He is a good singer also and with his son and two daughters forms a quartette that often sings at the funeral services of old settlers.

Saunders County – 1867

One of the group of counties most heavily settled by our people. The first Czechs to come here were Peter Kastl and Anton Hájek, both in 1867.

Peter Kastl was a soldier in the Austrian army and came to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the spring of 1866, where he worked at the mason's trade. He wanted to become a farmer, but lands in Iowa began to rise in price, so he came to Omaha, where he looked up homesteads and chose 160 acres in Saunders County. He went by rail to Fremont, where he crossed by ferry and then followed the Platte River until he came to the present town of Linwood. From there he went south, in search of his homestead. After he had gone about twelve miles, he stopped on the farm of a Mr. Garrett, to ask the direction. Garrett told him the homestead lay many miles further south, on Oak Creek.

Peter Kastl and wife

near the present town of Valparaiso. He advised him to buy a farm a few miles south, from a certain American, which Kastl did and settled on it. It was near the present town of Prague and the old rural church settlement called Plasi. Hájek followed Kastl, they being friends. He settled near Linwood.

The country hereabout is rolling, interesected by several timbered streams. This was probably the reason why people were attracted rather than to prairie lands which, while not more fertile, are easier to cultivate. However, it was natural that they wanted to be near water and timber, both so necessary to new settlers.

Thomas Šimánek

The first settlers had to go to Nebraska City to the mill, the trip, with oxen, requiring a week. They used to take their grain there to market, too. Later Fremont became a much nearer market, a ferry boat there taking them across the Platte. In calm weather it was all right, but in windy or stormy weather the ferryman would not go, and the poor settler had to turn back, sometimes a distance of twenty-five miles, and try his luck another day. Later a bridge was built and a toll of fifty cents charged. In 1870 Wahoo was the only town in the county and consisted of one large and one small building, but Fremont was the trading-point. Still later North Bend was established and in 1877, when the railroad came through Wahoo, that town became a market place. Later on Weston, Morse Bluff, Prague and other towns were founded. All the precincts in the western part are Czech more or less, Newman most heavily. Czechs live mostly in and about Prague (an entirely Czech town), Wahoo, Weston, Morse Bluff, Valparaiso, Colon and Touhy.

The little town of Prague, on the Burlington & Missouri, named for the capital city of Bohemia, is so entirely Bo-

hemian that for many years (and probably now) the only person of any other nationality was the depot agent. It was established soon after the railroad was built through in 1887 and the first inhabitants were:

Thomas Šimánek, who with Henry Fisher of Wahoo built the grain elevator; Anton Kašpar and Frank Secor, hardware and implements; Joseph Sedláček, saloon; Adolph and John Baštář, general merchandise; Frank Kubík and Frank Polák, general merchandise; Mary Bělík, hotel; Frank Pop, saloon; Vaňous & Malý, saloon; Martin Slamšídlo, blacksmith shop. The town grew briskly, so that by spring of 1888 there were 200 inhabitants, and so it was incorporated. The first councilmen were: Thomas Šimánek, Anton Kašpar, Frank Kubík, Adolph Baštář and Joseph Kašpar. John Baštář was first clerk and Frank Polák first treasurer, Frank Secor first postmaster, Adolph Baštář second and Anton Kašpar third. Later a mill was built, then water-works and electric lighting plant. The town is growing, having at the present time a school costing $75,000, a garage for $30,000, a community hall for $28,000, a Catholic and Protestant church, and other buildings. During its existence it has had but four fires. Some of the earlier inhabitants were: Joseph Vlasák, general merchandise; John Nedoma, blacksmith; Frank Dufek, meat market; John Tomek, general merchandise. The first station agent was John McFadden and the first section boss Peter Dolan, the only non-Bohemians in the community. Of those who established the town living there are Thomas Šimánek and Anton Kašpar, the rest have died or moved away. Mr. Kašpar furnished data regarding Prague and vicinity. At present there are 450 inhabitants.

Anton Kašpar

1867—The Following Came to Elk and Chester Precincts:

Peter Kastl, born Nov. 2, 1827, in Šepadly near Nová

Main street, Prague. An entirely Czech town

Kdyně, died October 21, 1903, in Prague. His brother Joseph came about two years later, settled near him and died in Brainard about 1922.

Joseph Kašpar, born 1845 in Obora near Kralovice, took a homestead that is the site of Prague. He died there 1916.

Joseph Šimánek, born 1828 in Lučice, near Klatovy, died in 1872 on his farm near Plasi. It was in his home that the first Catholic mass for Czechs was said in Nebraska, by a Jesuit missionary Rev. Francis Šulák, in September 1871. His sons, Thomas (born 1853) and Ignác (born 1858) continued farming with their mother. Both are living in Prague at date of writing.

Joseph Kašpar

1868—The Following Came:

Matěj Vavák, born in Osek, near Poděbrady; John Kubálek, Černá Hůra; John Plaček, Černá Hůra; Matěj Čížek, Jarov near Kralovice. All of the foregoing died on their farms. Čížek was killed by a cave-in, while working on the B. & M. railroad.

Václav Kašpar, born 1839 in Obora near Kralovice, died in Prague 1917. Michael Petrželka, Plzeň; Joseph Knajdl and Anton Sedláček, both from Šepadla; Václav Mikuláš, Černíkov; John Vaňous, Litovany; Joseph Pop, Těšovice, Klatovy.

1869—The Following Came:

George (Jiří) Šimánek, born April 24, 1842 in Lučice, living in Weston; John Mach, born 1819 in Mříčná near Jilemnice, died 1881; John Kašpar, born in Obora near Kralovice 1842, died in Prague 1923. George Elbling, born 1836 in Miroslavice, Moravia. In 1860 he entered service of the Papal Legion and in 1864 came with Maxmilian's army to Mexico. In 1867 he was made captain. After Maxmilian's defeat and death he came to the United States and in 1869

to Nebraska, settling on a homestead near Prague. Later he sold it and in 1876 settled in Wahoo, where he conducted a hotel and saloon. In memory of his Mexican days he named the hotel 'Hotel di Villa Koňa'. In later life he practiced law. Died in Wahoo 1893. In those early days lawyers and physicians were not questioned about diplomas, much less were they required by law to pass examinations, thus it was easy to enter those professions by anyone who wished to do so.

1870—The Following Came:

James Knajdl, born 1851, Zbraslav (living); Matěj Čurda, Kačerov, Kralovice; James Řehák, birthplace unknown; John Pospíšil, Krchlebská Lhota, Čáslav; John Novák, birthplace unknown.

1871—The Following Came:

Andrew (Ondřej) Vojta, Bezpravovice, Nová Kdyně; Frank Mach, Lučice; Martin Vaněk, birthplace unknown; Frank Vlasák, born 1832 in Žichov, died 1878; Thomas Dobeš, Ronchovany, Hrotovice, Znojmo, Moravia.

Henry A. Fisher

1873—The Following Came:

Anton Krátký, born 1833, Střížov, Moravia.

1874—The Following Came:

Anton Kašpar, born 1858, Smrk, Moravia, who furnished information on history of Prague and vicinity, in this county.

1868—The Following Came to Bohemia Precinct:

Joseph V. Shavlík, born 1854 in Černíkov, County of Plzeň. He came with his father John and family to Fremont, whence they went to settle on a homestead near the Platte river and the present town of Linwood. Later his father fell from a wagon and died, whereupon Joseph farmed the

old place until 1915, when he sold and moved to Wheeler County, he and his sons having a large ranch there.

Thomas Šimánek, born in Lučice 1825, died 1869

F. J. Lepša

1871—The Following Came:

Matěj Chmelka, born 1824 in Slavětice, Moravia. He came with sons John and Anton, settling near Plasi and died 1904 on his farm.

John Ficenec, born 1836 in Lokoty, Rychnov, died 1904 on his farm; George (Jiří) Ficenec, born 1833, Lokoty, Rychnov, died Dec. 23, 1899, in Weston; John Bartek, Horní Bečva, Frenštat; Frank Tomeš, Horní Bečva, Frenštat; Florian Tomeš, Horní Bečva, Frenštat; John Čuda, Kamenné Mosty, Habry; Václav Čuda, Kamenné Mosty, Habry.

Frank Koutský settled in 1869 near Cedar Hill and in 1888 moved to South Omaha, where he died in 1890. His sons became prominent in Omaha in political life, as shown in chapter on politics.

1874—Wahoo and vicinity. Thomas Zimola, Václav Simodynes, Jacob Novotný, Fr. Konecký and Fr. Noha, (with families), and Václav Zimola and Václav Navrátil, both single, all came from Kouty, Moravia, in 1874. Wahoo was but a mere settlement, consisting of a few frame buildings. Thomas Zimola was born December 22, 1831, the son of a proprietor of a large estate. Prior to the political revolution in 1848 a sort of peonage existed among the peasantry, a remnant of feudal times. The peasants were obliged to work a certain number of days, without pay, on the

A. Z. Donato

A group of Czechs who settled around Wahoo in 1874. (Photograph taken in 1924, after 50 years)

Upper row: Frank Noha, Mrs. Frank (Antonie) Dvořák, Mrs. Frank (Kateřina) Doležal, John Zimola, Mrs. John (Kateřina) Doležal, Mrs. John (Anna Simodynes) Prokeš, Mrs. Václav (Marie Novotný) Simodynes, John Noha. Lower row: John Simodynes, Mrs. Joseph (Frances Konecký) Láník, Thomas Zimola, Mrs. Thomas (Marie Simodynes) Zimola, Father Matěj Bor, Frank Noha, his wife Františka (nee Simodynes), F. Konecký, his wife Františka.

estate of the nobleman in their district. Failure to do so was punished by fine or flogging. If a peasant was wealthy enough, he could purchase his freedom and Thomas Zimola's father was of that class. As a young man Zimola served six years in the army. Until the year 1868 (when it was abolished) one of the military rules inflicted much suffering on soldiers. It was called "running the street". If a soldier were found guilty of even a misdemeanor and his commanding officer was cruel and severe, he ordered the punishment above mentioned. One hundred and fifty men stood on each side, with birch rods or slender, elastic sticks in their hands. The sentenced man, with back bared, was obliged to run back and forth a given number of times between the rows. Each man struck him as he passed, and not lightly either, for that too was considered a misdemeanor. The victim was often carried away to the hospital in a faint, his back raw and bleeding, for the maximum sentence meant that the condemned man had to run ten times each way. Two soldiers in Thomas Zimola's squadron committed suicide rather than undergo further torture and suicide for this reason, among the soldiers, was not at all uncommon. Upon his return from the army Zimola was married to Marie Simodynes, February 17, 1864, with whom he lived in harmony for sixty-three years. As an example of their pioneer hardships in Nebraska, when their baby daughter Mary died, there was no Catholic church nearby, no cemetery and no casket to be bought. One of the pioneers, a carpenter, made a casket of boards and the child was buried on its parents' homestead. Once a party of Indians, with long knives in their hands, appeared. Zimola thought they surely meant to kill him and his family, but they, seeing a grindstone in the yard, merely sharpened their knives and departed. Thomas Zimola died at the ripe age of 96 years, on April 1, 1927.

1875—The Following Came:

Jan Černík, Cihalín, Třebíč; Martin Maštera, Radošov, Třebíč; Frank Jonáš, Jacob Matějka, Martin Svoboda and Frank Kremláček, — all from Kouty, Třebíč; Jiljí Řezáč, Joseph Svoboda and John Stýskal, — all from Chotěbudice

near Dačice; John Kavan, Blatnice, Moravské Budějovice. His brother Philip settled near Linwood, Butler County, two years earlier, and still later near Touhy, Saunders County.

1876—The Following Came:

Anton Hrdlička, Racovice near Moravské Budějovice; Joseph Dokulil, Nová Ves near Třebíč; Frank Koutný and Václav Virgl, Třebetice near Jemnice; Ondřej and Martin Tejral and Simon Albert, — all from Lomy, near Jemnice; Václav Němeček, Rudoltice near Plzeň; Frank Laník, Vesce near Dačice, and John Žahourek, Budiškovice near Dačice.

1877—The Following Came:

Anton Jansa, Zdaslav near Klatovy. Jansa came to Chicago, Illinois in 1867, then to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and shortly thereafter to Omaha, where he lived until 1874 and where he was married to Miss Němeček. In 1875 he settled in Fremont, which was a trading point for the Bohemians in Saunders County and the eastern half of Butler County. He established a hotel and saloon there and his place became known far and wide among his people. In 1877 he settled in Wahoo, where he established a lumberyard and prospered. His brother Václav Jansa came to this country in 1873 and moved later to Wahoo. Others who came in 1877 were: Joseph Vaňous, Dobronice near Znojmo; Frank Machovec, Římov near Třebíč; Jacob Doležal, Sokolí near Třebíč.

1878—The Following Came:

Frank Dvořák, Jan Maršálek, Thomas Maršálek and Frank Musil, — all from Brancuze, Třebíč; Joseph Jonáš, Kouty, Třebíč; Anton Růžička, Příšpo near Jaroměřice; Anton Meduna, Rozkoš near Jaroměřice and Henry Vlček, Jaroměřice.

Among the early pioneers, whose birthplace is unknown, were: Jacob Hofbauer, Matěj Tříletý, Frank Komenda and Joseph Vogeltanz.

Besides Jansa, some of the pioneers in the town of Wahoo were: John Killian (born June 20, 1857, Janovice

near Klatovy) and his brother Thomas, who came to Bohemian Precinct in 1868, later to Wahoo.

Frank Koudele came in 1875. He was born in Štěchovice near Kralovice, died in Wahoo.

W. C. Kirchman, born February 11, 1851, in Klatovy, died in Wahoo, July 17, 1924. A well-known banker.

Joseph Ledvina, born in Nový Kyčov, Nová Kdyně, died in Market Lake, Idaho.

Václav Kliment, born in County Jičín.

Frank J. Lepša, born January 8, 1852 in Branná near Třeboň. Long a prominent and popular citizen. Later he moved to Clarkson, Nebr., where he died January 27, 1897.

Frank Gross, Hodina, Kralovice.

Henry A. Fisher, Kostelec nad Orlicí. In 1879 a member of the state legislature. Died in Wahoo a few years ago.

Morse Bluff and Bohemian Precincts.

(Data furnished by Frank Kaplan, Morse Bluff).

The first Czech to come into this part of the county was Anton Hájek, who in 1867 took a homestead in the valley between the Platte river on the north and the chain of hills on the south, between Morse Bluff and Linwood.

Can we, even in imagination, place ourselves in the position of an immigrant coming to a bare prairie, where the nearest neighbor is several miles away, with whom he cannot converse anyhow, not knowing the language? He must build a shelter. Of what? With what? A dugout in the bank, covered with brush and sod must do. No roads, no bridges, nothing to eat.

Most of the Czechs in this vicinity were obliged to go elsewhere to earn a living. Many originally came (in this country) from around Braidwood, Illinois, where they had worked in mines. So

Anton and Barbara Hájek

back there they went for the winter season, or to Omaha (and in either case they went to Omaha afoot), leaving their wives to take care of the children and homesteads. Mrs. Frank Hineš (living at date of writing) remembers when her husband left for Braidwood and two weeks later their son Frank was born. There was no alternative, they had to live. Mrs. Rosalie Soukup (born Datel), another pioneer still living, says: "I experienced a great scare when two Indians came into my house and stood by the cradle, where lay our youngest. My husband had hidden several hundred dollars in currency in the clock, he was going to pay for a threshing machine. But nothing happened, the Indians left in peace. That was in 1876 or 1877. I came here with my parents in 1867 and entered service in the family of Mr. Jílek (Ellick) in Fremont. Their physician was Dr. Brunner, and he thus came to know who I was. A few years later, after I had been married and was farming with my husband, I felt weak and worn. My husband took me to Fremont, to see the doctor, the same Dr. Brunner. He examined me, wrote a long prescription and told me to take it to the store. How surprised and delighted I was to find that the "prescription" was an order for beans, onions, apples, rice, cheese and other provisions, which the generous and kindly doctor, noting my undernourished condition, had prescribed and paid for. Such were our beginnings." — Another pioneer, Mrs. M. Janovec, remembers when they had nothing for weeks but ground corn meal, no fat, no milk.

From 1867 to 1871 the nearest mill was in Ashland, later in Wahoo. There were no roads and oxen were used, so that the trip to and from Ashland, 49 miles, lasted a week. Indeed, there were instances when the earliest pioneers, having no teams of any kind, walked both ways. The nearest town was Fremont, eighteen miles away from Morse Bluff and about twenty-five miles from the center of the colony then forming. All products were taken there and all provisions and supplies hauled from there. During the first years products were scanty, for but small areas of ground had been broken and planted by hand. A trip to Fremont

with products lasted a day and part of the night, longer in bad weather. North Bend already existed on the other side of the Platte river, but there was no bridge. The river could be crossed in very cold weather, when frozen, but it was not always safe. In the summer a ferry operated and often was stranded on a sandbar, when the passengers were obliged to spend the night there, sometimes in a storm.

Wintry and stormy weather proved a great hardship, for shelters for men and beasts were insufficient, often none at all for the latter. Hay for horses had to be pulled from stacks, they had no haymows. Mr. John Haba, Mr. Kaplan's father-in-law, who used to farm near Rescue and now lives in Morse Bluff, says: "We had two oxen, all we had, and they had been for almost two days snowed in by the straw pile. What to do? How could we get along without them, if they froze? There was no other help but to take them into the sod house. It was not pleasant, but there was no other alternative."

1867—The Following Came:

Anton Hájek, born in Těšovice, Plzeň, 1823, died May 23, 1909; John Šavlík, Černíkov.

Joseph Datel, Koleč near Praha. A blacksmith, plied his trade on his farm two miles south of Morse Bluff, later in North Bend. Died July 6, 1902. His wife still living and his son a prominent business man of North Bend.

1868—The Following Came:

Thomas Killian, born 1824 in Janovice. Came to Pittsburgh, Pa. with family in 1866. He soon learned English and was adviser and friend to newcomers, giving them shelter before they prepared one for themselves. He died May 21, 1882. His sons and grandsons are members of the well-known firm Killian Bros., having large stores in Wahoo, Cedar Bluffs and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Jacob Franta, Mlýnec, Plzeň, Aug. 10, 1838, died Aug. 15, 1914; Anton Cippera, born 1841, Nezoř, Nová Kdyně, came to Omaha in 1867, died Dec. 1, 1918; Anton Čuhel, born Nov. 9, 1817, died August 18, 1894; Thomas Mareš, born in Bezděkov, Klatovy.

1869—The Following Came:

Matěj Racek, Břeskovice, Plzeň, Jan. 6, 1818, came with five sons to Iowa in 1861. Died June 2, 1900.

Václav Racek, Břeskovice, Plzeň, Nov. 27, 1849, came with father to Iowa in 1861, died Nov. 18, 1908.

Frank Beznoska, Beroun. Came to Cleveland in 1865. Died March 3, 1900, aged 78. Remembered as an able ferryman, who saved people from drowning on several occasions.

John Janovec, Strejčkovice, July 6, 1849, died January 30, 1901.

Anton Fiala, Janovice 1838, died Oct. 28, 1907.

Václav Hájek, Těšovice, 1825, died Nov. 15, 1892.

Frank and Mary Hineš

Joseph Pabian, Dražek near Zahořany, Sept. 26, 1844, died Sept. 8, 1908.

Václav Nesládek, 1834, Boušov, Čáslav, died 1919. A veteran of the Austrian army, taking part in the wars with Italy in 1859 and 1866.

John Pabian, Zahořany, died Feb. 8, 1894, aged 58.

1870—The Following Came:

Volfgang Eckstein, born 1819, came to Pittsburgh in 1868. Died within a few days of 100 years of age. Born in Bujanov, Klatovy.

John Beránek, Bračice, Čáslav, 1844. Came to Wisconsin in 1863. Living at time of writing.

Václav Bureš, Přetín, County Klatovy, 1833, died Feb. 4, 1906.

1871—The Following Came:

John Žákovec, Koryta, Plzeň, came to Braidwood in 1870. Died Nov. 2, 1922.

Anton Soukup, Koryta, 1850, to Braidwood in 1870, died March 15, 1910. Active in national and political life.

Joseph Hineš, Koryta, December 1845, came to Braidwood in 1867. Living at date of writing.

Frank Hineš, Koryta, came to Braidwood in 1870. His son was county clerk, at present postmaster in Wahoo

John Virka, Kačerov, Dec. 1847, to Braidwood 1870, died Feb. 3, 1922.

John Růžička, Jarov near Kralovice, came to Braidwood in 1870, died August 17, 1920.

John Švarc, born 1833, died 1897. Birthplace unknown.

Anton Somer. Removed to Beemer, Nebr.

Frank Mizera, born in Obora, Kralovice.

Frank Levý, birthplace unknown.

All of these who came in 1871 were miners and used to go back to Braidwood to work. With them returned to Nebraska newcomers, who used to go to Saline and Fillmore Counties to earn money for necessities, there being older Czech settlements there. and therefore a chance to work.

Anton and Rosalie Soukup

Václav Černý, born in Černíkov, June 21, 1827, died April 24, 1902. His son is a member of Cherney & Watson Lumber Co., operating in several towns of Nebraska and Iowa. His granddaughter Emily is a public school teacher and Helen teaches music.

John Vyhlídal, Slavětice, Moravia, June 24, 1825, died Nov. 19, 1909. A good friend of Václav Černý and Thomas Killian, with whom he held Sunday services in homes, before churches or lodges existed. For many years officiated at funeral services.

Joseph Roubal, Obočí, Plzeň, Nov. 30, 1851, living.

Václav Burda, Lomnička, 1843, died June 21, 1910.

1872—The Following Came:

John Walla, Šermikovice, Moravia, died July 9, 1906, aged 84. His four sons came with him and as he had more means than most, he was able to help the needy ones. His grandsons are in business in Morse Bluff.

John Kavan, born in Chuděnice, October 15, 1849, living.

Jacob Jelínek, Šermikovice, 1829, died in 1873. Killed by accident while hauling lumber from Fremont.

1874—The Following Came:

Frank Vopálenský, Nový Rychnov, April 2, 1819, to Wisconsin in 1862, died April 30, 1906. His son Frank was member of the legislature 1907—1908.

Joseph Hineš, Koryta, March 12, 1823, died Oct. 11, 1906.

John Hineš, his son, living in Prague.

Anton Ondráček, born in Valeč, Moravia, 1845, died 1894.

Charles Veselý, born in Žák, County Čáslav, 1816, came to Wisconsin in 1864, died in 1887. Buried in Sand Creek cemetery, all the others in Bohemian (Killian) cemetery, Československý (Czechoslovak) Cemetery or Cedar Hill Catholic Cemetery.

Joseph and Anna Hineš

1875—The Following Came:

John Kavan, born Dec. 25, 1851 in Blatná, Moravia.

1878—The Following Came:

Jacob Šavlík, born in Černíkov 1841, died in Linwood, Dec. 4, 1925.

1880—The Following Came:

Joseph Beránek, Bračice, 1855, came to Wisconsin in 1863, living.

Other old settlers, the date of whose coming is uncertain:

Jacob Dvořák, Kamenná, Třebíč, April 22, 1848, died Feb. 17, 1893; Matyáš (Mathias) Nesládek, father of Václav, Boušov, Čáslav; Thomas Novák, Bačice, Krumlov, Nov. 19, 1819, died Jan. 8, 1900; John Baur, Spánov, Domažlice, died Jan. 6, 1913, aged 82; Martin Mahlík, Tlumačov, Do

mažlice, 1828, died 1925; Joseph Chmelka, Slavětice, Krumlov, Nov. 17, 1867, died Jan. 1901; Frank Souček, Podmokle, Zbirov, 1840, died 1916; Joseph Hamrdla, Přišbach, Mor. Budějovice, 1837, died 1907; Joseph Brožovský, born May 1813, died Jan. 1900, birthplace unknown; Frank Mizera, born in Obora, Kralovice, died Sept. 29, 1894; Frank Vojtěch, born in Lukov, Mor. Budějovice, Nov. 7, 1839, died Dec. 27, 1922; Václav Satorie, Podmoky, Čáslav, Nov. 14, 1839, died Jan. 29, 1922; Matyáš (Matthias) Kroupa, born 1816, died 1895; Anton Pernička, Vanice, Brno, Moravia, June 18, 1866, died May 12, 1913; Matěj Tomášek, born in Plzeň County, died 1887, aged 46; Frank Babka, 1849—1917, birthplace unknown; Frank Bobek, Zhořov, Čáslav, died May 1908, aged 70; Václav Kuneš, Úboč, Nová Kdyně, died August 2, 1910, aged 80; Václav Kohout, born 1855 in Němčice, County Nová Kdyně, came in 1872, lived here a year and a half, then returned to Bohemia and came again in 1880, when he settled near Valparaiso.

Frank Kaplan

Mr. Frank Meduna, an old settler in Weston, writes:

"I remember when cowboys herded cattle by the thousands. Between my father's farm and Valparaiso, a distance of nine miles, but two sod houses could be seen. A herd numbered from two to three thousand head, for as late as 1881 for twenty miles to the south of us all was unsettled, with few exceptions. The Overland Trail was but a quarter of a mile distant from our farm, and to this day the ground over which it wound is not as fertile, for there were about twenty wheel ruts in it and the rains washed everything away. My old friend George Hejtman, who settled in this vicinity in 1868 and who died in 1925, at the ripe age of eighty (buried in Weston) related to me some of his experiences.

He came to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1867, from County

of Plzeň. At first he worked on a farm and later went to Omaha, then a small town. He worked on the Union Pacific bridge construction there and cut fire-wood on a timbered island, the same being used by steamboats. When work grew scarce, with his friend Martin Janský he went to Wyoming, to work on the Union Pacific Railroad. However, the labor was heavy in those waste lands, the food bad and the alkali water unfit for drinking, so that many became ill. When they were working in Laramie, Hejtman grew worse and with Janský decided to return to Omaha. They had but little money, so were obliged to go afoot several hundred miles. Hejtman had two pairs of shoes, both of which were

First railroad in Nebraska

worn out before they reached their destination. They suffered hunger and thirst, for there was no food or water to be had on the plains, except when they reached a fort. These forts were made of logs, covered with sod, and were quite a distance apart from each other. They were built for the railroad laborers, for safety against Indians.

After many weeks' travelling and great suffering, they reached Omaha, where Hejtman sought a physician, who could not do much for him. V. L. Vodička advised him to take a tablespoon of salt in water, which he did twice and was cured. He worked a while in Omaha and when he had saved a little money, married Anna Karlík and moved to

Saunders County, where he took a claim five miles northwest of the present town of Weston, in the spring of 1868. He made a dug-out, covering it with slough grass, and the "palace" was ready for occupation. Mrs. Hejtman received a few chickens from friends and that was all their live stock. A neighbor who owned a team broke their sod, but Hejtman had to go to Omaha (sixty miles) afoot, to work and earn some money. He bought a cow and drove her from Omaha via Fremont. As the water was high, the ferry there was in bad shape and so he had to wait several days. But when he arrived with the cow, his wife's joy was great. When he had earned enough money to buy a team, conditions began to improve. However, markets and mills were far away. Fremont over thirty miles, Ashland (where the mill was) that far also. The roads were poor, no bridges, the journey required two or three days. Prairie fires, grasshoppers, chinch bugs, — all these served to ruin the crops of the poor beginners. When the Union Pacific railroad built from Valley through Wahoo in 1876, and through Weston to Lincoln, prosperity came and settlers poured in. Martin Janský is living at date of writing, in Weston, over eighty years old, but still hale and hearty."

Fillmore County – 1867

This county is adjacent on the west to Saline County, and the original settlements were really an overflow from the latter county.

1867—The Following Came:

Frank Znojemský, birthplace unknown; John Šteinachr, Soběslav, Tábor; John Král, Holšice.

1868—The Following Came:

Ferdinand Sluka, Volenice; John K. Barbour, an adopted Czech boy and a Civil War veteran, who came from Michigan.

1869—The Following Came:

Frank Bečvář, Nezamyslice; John Zelenka, Nezamyslice; John Kolář, Milín, Příbram; Joseph Jež, Skrejšov; Fr. Kebrle, Vejvanov, Zbirov; John Žižka, Ertišovice, Příbram; Václav and Joseph Králíček, birthplace unknown; Frank Kostlán, birthplace unknown.

1870—The Following Came:

John Kotas, Kozojedy; John Bernášek, Prodeslady; Joseph Kasík, Zhoř, Kralovice; Frank Motys, Koryta; Frank Bárta, birthplace unknown. He invented a method for making binder twine and sold the patent to the McCormick company, the grain straw to be used as the binder. It worked when the straw was green, but not when dry. While planning how to overcome this defect, Bárta became insane and died. Daněk, birthplace unknown.

1871—The Following Came:

John Kašák, Žichovice, Sušice; Ignác Podlešák, Slatina, Blatná; Martin Bedlan, Marešovice.

John Steinachr

Frances Skřivánek-Steinachr

1872—The Following Came:

Anton, Rudolph, John, Václav and Celestýn Ulrich, who came from Třtice, Nové Strašecí; Paul Anton, Lhota, Dačice; Paul Buzek, Radlice; Joseph Korbelík, Ledměřice, Manetín; John Plaček, Rakolusky, who had settled first near Crete (1869); Anton Vávra, Horažd'ovice; Joseph Sládek, Horažd'ovice; M. Čížek, birthplace unknown; Matěj Kubíček, Nezamyslice; Frank Hotek, Koryta.

1873—The Following Came:

John Čudlý, Radlice.

1874—The Following Came:

Frank Tvrz, birthplace unknown; Václav Koča, Žibenice; Frank and Matěj Štěch, Skalice, Soběslav, Tábor; Matěj Jech, birthplace un-

known; Frank Hrdý, birthplace unknown; Matt. Votýpka, Nalžovy. Plánice; Ondřej Linhart, Sušice; Andrew Kotrouš, Volenice; Peter Kotrouš, Strakonice.

1876—The Following Came:

Bohumil Girmus, Praha.

John and Barbara (Svoboda) Kotas

1877—The Following Came:

Fr. Růžička, birthplace unknown; Ignác Baroch, birthplace unknown; Joseph Jež, Skrýchov, Tábor.

1878—The Following Came:

John Hromádka, Volenice; Jos. Křejdl, Čekov, Zbirov. Killed by runaway team while hauling flour from Fairmont. Joseph Janoušek, Stěchovice, Manetín; Isidor, Vitus, John, Anton and Joseph Laun, and Anton Petrášek, Třtice, Nové Strašecí.

1879—The Following Came:

Joseph Klíma, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; Joseph Rohla, Třtice, Nové Strašecí.

Other pioneers, date of coming not exactly known:

Joseph Podlešák, Slatina, Blatná; Joseph Švec, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; Stephen Hlína, Kasejovice, Blatná; Václav Švec, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; Frank Andrle, Bezděkov, Klatovy; Karel Mašek, Zichovice; John Doupník, Radnice, Moravia; Fr. Krejčí, Zbirov, Hořovice; Joseph Křejdl, Čekov, Zbirov.

Birthplace unknown: Anton Doupník, Joseph Macků, Frank Suda. Joseph, John, Paul and George Kouba, Fr. Mrkvička, John Šimánek, Matěj Beneš, Frank Kopáč, Pašek, Hess, Volin, Kutička, Kostlan.

George Newer (Novák) now of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. His brothers Frank and John were killed at a picnic dance about 1885.

Frank and Marie (Bernášek) Kotas

The following is an example of what pioneers in that coun-

ty had to endure. It is taken from an account given by John Plaček, father of E. E. Plaček, well known attorney and business man of Wahoo, who this year refused the candidacy for governor (democrat).

John Plaček was born in 1837 in Rakolusky, Kralovice County and in 1863 married Catherine Kotas (born in Kozojedy). In September 1868 they came to Chicago, then to St. Louis. The following year they went up the river (a seven days' trip) to Nebraska City, where they found Vác. Petráček, who conducted a boarding house at the time. Petráček informed Plaček of a countryman named Koleno,

Pioneer mothers

Veronica Kašík	Josefa Bernášek	Anna Hodek

from Březí, Bohemia. Koleno advised him to wait until the Czech settlers from the Big Blue country came down, that they would take him back with them. Shortly thereafter Matěj and Frank Kovářík, John Brabec and George Krajník did come down to get a seeder they had ordered. Plaček bought a wagon and other necessities and set out with them. They stayed at Krajník's for three days, sleeping in their wagon, because Krajník's sod house was filled to overflowing. Vincenc Aksamit had a homestead in that section and on it a little shed, so they moved in and lived there one winter. Plaček had to go to Nebraska City, seventy-five miles, for furniture. In the spring he took a claim, broke up thirty acres and lived in an open camp. Later he

built a dug-out, where their son was born. When the child was three days old, the mother came to the field with it and helped Plaček plant potatoes, the other children staying at home alone. A cloudburst occurred, the mother and child sought shelter under the wagon and Plaček hurried home. He found the dug-out filled with water, the frightened children in bed. At the time of his coming, he had brought with him a nephew, who found work with a settler, but sickened and came to Plačeks to die. Their home measured 4x6 feet, they had to place the corpse outside and cover it until the funeral.

The next year Plaček planted seventy acres. Many settlers poured in. The year following that he bought railroad land in Fillmore County, selling it two years later, an eighty for $800.00 and buying a quarter section for $700.00. Then he bought another eighty for $400.00 and still later school land for $1,000.00, all in Fillmore County. As his boys grew to manhood, he kept on selling improved land and buying unimproved, to give them farms, — all earned by the hard work of himself and his family. It was a good example of the way many others did and in time were rewarded.

John and Catherine (Kotas) Plaček

Settlers kept coming, railroads were built, towns were established and Plaček was able in his old age to retire with his wife to Milligan, to enjoy a well-earned rest, and, as he said, to await the time when they were to abide in that last and smallest "sod house" of all, which measures but 2x6 feet but in which its occupants find eternal peace.

Czechs live pretty well over the county, most heavily around and in Milligan, which is almost entirely Czech.

The site of Milligan was formerly a farm owned by Joseph Švec (born in Třtice, Nové Strašecí). He bought it from the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company June 5, 1885 for $758.40, sold it May 23, 1887 to John M. Ragan, Trustee, for $2,022 and Ragan sold it June 9, 1887 to Chas. F. Smith, Trustee, for $2,821.20. Smith sold it to the citizens of the newly established town of Milligan, the vicinity of which was largely settled by Czechs. In the fall of that year the Kansas City & Omaha Railroad Company built a branch line from Fairbury to McCool Junction.

The first inhabitant of Milligan was Karel (Charles) Polanský, a blacksmith and the first owners of lots Kotas and Bulín, hardware merchants. The former was born in Kozojedy, Kralovice, the latter in Výrov, Kralovice. By the end of that year the following firms were already in business: Kotas & Bulín and Plaček & Vozáb, hardware; elevators: Taylor & Burke (A. A. Hamouz, assistant, born in Třtice, Nové Strašecí) and Davis & Co. (Frank Štěch, assistant, Skalice, Soběslav); Milligan Exchange Bank (W. J. Zirhut, cashier, Bezděkov, Klatovy); Anton Vodička, furniture; Karel Polanský, blacksmith; John Havel, John Lukšík (Zbirov, Hořovice) and Anton Vodička, carpenters.

The town was incorporated February 15, 1888 and Anton Vodička was elected one of the trustees, Karel Polanský marshal, the rest were not Czechs. The first postmaster was Anton Vodička, from January 19, 1888 to April 15, 1890. In that year (1888) there were in existence the following firms: F. A. Plaček, hardware; Kotas & Bulín, implements; Kotas & Kotas, saloon; Mrs. A. Vacek (Jelmo, Dačice) millinery; Joseph Kotas (Kozojedy, Kralovice) meat market; W. J. Kotas (same birthplace) cattle buyer. Shortly thereafter these were added: A. V. Kouba (Netěš, Roudnice) and Bernášek

Frank Hrdý

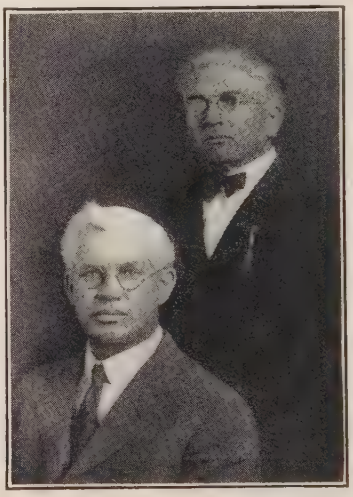
(Prodeslady, Kralovice) & Girmus (Praha) general merchandise; Štěch & Bernášek, saloon; Joseph Eret (Pláně, Kralovice) hotel; John Kotas, lumberyard; Pulec & Šimáček (Čistá, Kralovice) cigarmakers; Frank Mengler (Skrejchov, Tábor) blacksmith; Anton Petráček, meat market; John Mašek (Sebčice, Nepomuk) wheelwright. The municipal organizations also began to be more and more in the hands of Czechs, the only non-Czech was W. M. Chase, chairman of the town board. A. V. Kouba, Anton Vodička, Thomas Pulec and Joseph Eret were members, W. J. Zirhut was justice of the peace and Frank Mengler marshal. These were the new business firms: Václav Šimáček, saloon; Frank Hájek, implements; Joseph Kunc (Peklo, Rychnov) furniture and harness; Victor Laun (Třtice, Nové Strašecí) & Co., general merchandise; Frank Mengler, blacksmith; Waněk (Kardašova Řečice) & Wehn, drug store and Joseph Dušek (from near Dačice) meat market.

The first members of the school board (1888) were: W. M. Chase, director, W. J. Bulín, moderator, V. Koča (Ondřejov, Manetín) treasurer. In the next annual meeting W. J. Zirhut succeeded V. Koča and A. V. Kouba succeeded W. M. Chase, so that the board was entirely Czech. The first principal was P. H. Ryan, succeeded by a Czech, in 1891, J. V. Selement.

So the town became more and more Czech until now it is entirely so. Charles M. Šmrha has always been in the

Main Street, Milligan. An almost entirely Czech town

forefront of all patriotic and civic movements. He is the son of an old settler, Charles Šmrha Sr., a harnessmaker of Rábí, and Catherine Štulík, daughter of a miller in Horažd'ovice and Rábí. Charles M. Šmrha was born September 14, 1876 in Vordenberg, Styria and came to this country with his mother and brothers and sisters in 1884, his father having preceded them the year before. They settled in Exeter, in 1888 moved to Geneva, in 1891 back to Exeter and in 1894 to Milligan where they have lived since. Mr. Šmrha attended the public schools, Western Normal and Normal in Lincoln, taught about a year and was deputy in the office of county judge. In 1898 he served as volunteer in Company G, 1st Nebraska Regiment, during the Spanish-American war, spending a year in the Philippine Islands, where he was very ill of malaria. Upon his return home he served two terms as county school superintendent, held office in township, town and school boards, was state senator twice (1923—1925 and 1927—1929). He was very active in the Bohemian National Alliance work during the war (1914—1918) and is always ready to help in all patriotic or civic matters, Czech or American. He married Miss Agnes Barta, born in Kámen, and is the father of several children.



V. V. Šmrha Chas. Šmrha

Another son of Charles Šmrha Sr. is Dr. V. V. Šmrha, who is Supreme Medical Examiner of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Assn., a large fraternal order. Dr. Šmrha was born in Kolinec, Bohemia, November 7, 1878 and came to Exeter in 1884, in 1894 to Milligan. After graduating he taught three years in the country and two years in town, then studied medicine in Creighton Medical College, Omaha, where he graduated with the highest

honors. He has always been active in Czech lodges, was city treasurer for many years and justice of the peace. In 1904 he married Miss Anna R. Hamouz and is the father of several children.

Joseph Jícha and Frank Hrdý are also active in national and civic affairs. Frank Hrdý was born in 1860 in Nový Bydžov, where he learned the shop-keeper's trade. He worked at it in Horní Jelení, then in Holice. In 1880 came to Chicago, then to New York, where he married Miss Aloisie Štěpánek and was in business there nine years. Came to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, then to Milligan, where he has been in business since.

Pawnee County – 1867

The Czech settlements in this county are an extension of those in Richardson, forming together one colony. While Lukeš Hrdlička, born in Humpolec, Bohemia, came in 1866, the real settling began a year later.

John Klíma and wife

1867—The Following Came:

Frank Blecha, Hlineč, Bohemia; John and Albert Hubka, Kočín, Kralovice; Václav Fritz, Peřovice, Slané; Frank Raitera, birthplace unknown; Frank and Joseph Zelenka, Nechvalice, Sedlčany; Joseph Straka, Koruhvice, Nové Město; Joseph Dufek, birthplace unknown; Albert and Frank Kovanda, Třímany, Zbirov; Joseph Werner, Beroun, Praha; Thomas Kubíček, birthplace unknown; Frank Dudar, Skoupy, Sedlčany; Frank Macha, birthplace unknown; Anton Staněk, birthplace unknown; John Beránek, birthplace unknown; Frank Šimek, birthplace unknown; John Klíma, Minice. Mirovice; Joseph Vrtiška, Těchoraz, Pacov; John Straka, Opatov, Humpolec.

1869—The Following Came:

Adolph and Anton Dvořák, Zderaz, Skuteč; Fr. Dobrovolný, birthplace unknown; Václav Karas, Biskoupky, Zbirov.

1870—The Following Came:

Frank Pešek, Lhotka, Chotěboř; Joseph Culek, brother of Chas., Studenec, Sedlčany; John Niebauer, birthplace unknown; Joseph Kasal, unknown.

Soon After 1870—The Following:

Joseph Chaloupecký, unknown; John Pláňanský, unknown; Frank Brož, unknown; Joseph Kučera, unknown.

1872—The Following Came:

Václav Dvořák, unknown; Frank Hubka, Kočín, Kralovice; Václav Tenk, Biskoupky, Zbirov; Frank Hanna, Dřevec, Kralovice; John Sochor, Opatov, Humpolec.

1873—The Following Came:

Charles Kohn (later in Humboldt) and his brother Albert, Kralovice; Václav Kámen, Jehenice, Žatec; Fr. Fencl, Kočín, Kralovice.

1875—The Following Came:

Anton Strejc, Třímany, Zbirov; John Vrtiška, Těchoraz, Pacov; Albert Vopata, Studená, Kralovice; John Hubka, Kočín, Kralovice.

1876—The Following Came:

John Fritz, birthplace unknown.

The following settled in this county, but had postoffice in Virginia, Gage County:

Vojtěch Hubka, Kočín, Kralovice, came in 1873; Matěj Červený, Mýto, Hořovice, came in 1876; Joseph Dezort, Dobřiv, Rokycany, came in 1880; Mikuláš Boštík, Rakolusky, Kralovice, came in 1881; Václav Lisý, unknown, came in 1886; Mr. Svoboda, Dlouhá Lhota, came in 1887; Mr. Vonásek, came in 1888.

A. R. Kovanda

Mr. A. R. Kovanda, Table Rock, Nebr., who came with his parents in 1867, his father Albert Kovanda taking a claim then, writes: "We went from St. Joseph by boat to Aspinwall, now extinct. Heřman and Shary had a tavern there. The next morning my father, who had preceded us to prepare a place,

came with Mr. Skala and took us to Frank Raitera's farm, to a dug-out. That was in August 1867. From there we went to our claim, where we camped. As far as eye could see there was nothing but the bare prairie, not a house or piece of timber anywhere. The next day my father and oldest brother made a dug-out, for father had bought a team of oxen in St. Joseph and so was able to haul logs and brush-wood. Our abode was all right in dry weather, but all wrong in rainy times, when it filled with water. We lived there a year, then father hauled boards from Brownville, and erected a frame shelter over the hole. This was all right in warm and calm weather, all wrong in cold or windy weather, too much ventilation. Our land was crossed by an Indian trail leading west from St. Joseph and from Kansas City to Nebraska City. Some Indians stopped every day, begging food and tobacco. Mother gave them rye or corn bread and they departed satisfied."

Czechs live in and around Table Rock, Du Bois, Steinauer, Tate and some have their postoffice in Virginia, Gage County.

Johnson County – 1867

This county has very small Czech settlements in the vicinity of Crab Orchard, Elk Creek and Tecumseh, and is rather an outgrowth of the colonies in Pawnee and Richardson Counties. That is, it was settled about the same time and in that same vicinity, but has never attained any size.

The first, as far as is known, were Anton Sikyta, his son Frank (born in Spálené Poříčí, 1855, now living in Beatrice), James Horáček, Václav Kostohryz (a baker, of whom mention is made in history of Saline County), Václav Hnízda (born in Zahrádka, Ledeč, soon moved to Humboldt) all came in 1867. In 1868 Frank Neděla took a claim, but did not prove on it and later settled in Crete, more detailed mention being made of him in the history of Saline County. Other early settlers were Charles Kohn (Kralovice) and Frank Novák (Vysoký Mělník), both of whom soon moved to Humboldt, where they lived for many years.

In the early nineties the following were living there:

Tecumseh—Joseph and Thomas Kazda, born in Újezd, Plzeň.

Elk Creek—Albert and Václav Karas (Biskoupky, Praha), John Dufek (Mezihoří, Sedlčany) and Joseph Šebek.

Smartville—Frank and Joseph Šebek (Vysoký Chlum, Milevsko).

Sterling—Joseph and Marie Kozák (Třesenice), John Svoboda (Dlouhá Lhota, Zbirov).

Crab Orchard—Václav Brož (Sedlec, Hořovice), V. Křikava (Sedlec, Hořovice) and F. Svoboda (Dlouhá Lhota, Zbirov).

Adam—E. Křikava (Sedlec, Hořovice).

Frank Sikyta, now living in Beatrice, Nebraska, writes: "I was born in Bohemia in 1855, where my father was toll-keeper in Spálené Poříčí. We moved later to Deněšice and again to Lukavice. In 1864 my father decided to emigrate, there being six in our family. It was during the Civil War and he had to pay for our transportation in gold. A man named Vencil Malý came with us. He did not have enough money, so he wanted to drown himself, in desperation, but my father, although he had but little left after paying for our tickets, loaned him twenty dollars. We came to Chicago and our money was all spent, but a Czech named Martin Trázník helped him out with a

Frank and Christina (Vonásek) Sikyta

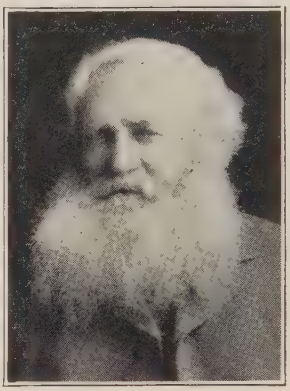
loan. In 1866 but little work was to be had, for the soldiers were returning home. We set out for Nebraska, by way of St. Joseph, Mo., the railroad terminus. From there we went by boat to Aspinwall, Richardson County, where we stayed over winter, shelling corn by hand, putting it into sacks and sewing them up. In that way we three together earned from $3.00 to $5.00 per day. We had gone to Brownville and taken claims. At that time Robert J. Shary lived in Aspinwall (later in Wilber) and he offered to let us use his horse, when we set out on an inspection tour. I was elected to the office of driver, but the old horse knew the way better than we did. Shary gave us a compass and a gallon of whiskey, and we made about twenty miles a day. Considering that the horse had nothing to eat and we had the same, it was pretty good progress. We reached a farm owned by a German, who offered us lodging. At last we got to Vesta, where we found a locator, who showed us the lands. We saw Indians and buffalo there. In February 1867 we moved on our claim, but only Horáček and we (my father and I) remained, the rest returned to Chicago. However, they soon came back. If we could have gone, we would have done so too, but we had no money with which to travel. Eleven years later the railroad built from Kansas to Lincoln, so more Czechs came. In 1875 Vencil Vonásek settled here and I married his daughter Kristýna (Christine). She was born in Dlouhá Lhota near Zbirov. We farmed in Johnson County for many years, but are now living in retirement in Beatrice."

Lancaster County – 1867

The rural communities in Lancaster County, in the southwestern part, are an overflow from Saline County, the first settlers coming there soon after the first came to Saline.

The first to come, as far as is known, was Frank Husa, born in Dobřejice near Hluboká, who took a homestead here in 1867. Two years later his brother Joseph, also born in Dobřejice, came with family. Mrs. Marie Schlajs, daughter

of Joseph Husa, writes: "My uncle Frank Husa came to Nebraska in 1867. He went afoot from Nebraska City to Crete and took a homestead two miles east of Crete, near the western boundary of Lancaster County, taking at the same time one for my father Joseph Husa. But my father was obliged to stay in Bo hemia until he had sold his property there, which meant two years' time. We arrived in Chicago July 4th, 1869, my parents, my brothers Jacob and John, my sister Anna (Mrs. Janeček) and I. As we were coming away from the depot, I carried my brother John (now living near Gilead, Thayer County, Nebraska) on my back. A bit of fireworks fell on my hand, burning it so that we were obliged to stay in Chicago two weeks longer." Later these brothers moved to Gage County near Barneston, when the Indian reservation was opened to whites in the early eighties. Frank Husa died about 1907, Joseph Husa about 1918.



Joseph Husa

Anton Aksamit and wife

In April 1870—The Following Came:

Matěj Pomajzl and sons Frank and Joseph, Ouběnice, Unhošť; Václav Stehlík, Jihlava, and his father-in-law Jirman; Frank Šmíd with sons Joseph, Frank, Václav and John, Sobědraž, Orlík; Frank Pavlík, Štěchovice, Strakonice; Matěj and Joseph Jirotka, Velké Přítočno, Unhošt; Anton Aksamit, Pavlov, Unhošt; Joseph Janeček with son Martin, Dolany, Klatovy; Joseph Josí-

fek, Vamberk, Rychnov nad Kněžnou; John Šindelář, Květov, Milevsko.

1871—The Following Came:

Matěj Vančura, from Cleveland, Ohio; Matěj Kotmel, Laziště.

1873—The Following Came:

Joseph and Václav Leták, from near Zbraslav.

1874—The Following Came:

Václav Macháček, Lhota, Soběslav, Tábor; Joseph Procházka, Kučer, Milevsko.

1875—The Following Came:

Václav Větrovec, Újezd, Unhošt.

Karel Helcl (called Hercl) with his wife Antonia, from Unhošť near Praha. The Helcls came to Mrs. Helcl's sister, Mrs. Joseph Leták. Letáks lived in a dug-out near Hallam and there they spent their first night in Nebraska. In the morning, when it seemed time to get up, darkness reigned, so Mrs. Helcl thought: "What long nights they have in America." At last she arose and looked at the clock, and as it was nine, she inquired the reason for the darkness. It has snowed quietly but heavily all night and the dug-out was completely covered. They forced a pathway by pushing a dishpan out of the doorway through the snow. Helcls bought 80 acres and later another farm of 160 near the center of the county, where they farmed until 1889, when they retired to live in Crete. Mr. Helcl died in 1905, his wife in 1926.

John Chrastil

1876—The Following Came:

Joseph Švancara, Újezd, Unhošt; Joseph Kozel, unknown; Mr. Maříanek, unknown; Frank Trousil, Račice, Beroun; Joseph Tyšer, Račice, Nové Strašecí.

1877—The Following Came:

Frank Rejcha, Bělejšov, Klatovy.

Pioneers, whose date of coming is not certain:

Anton Kotmel, Laziště, Čmel; Frank Koželuh, Hýskov, Beroun; Frank Štípek, Hýskov, Beroun; Matěj Korbel, Radimov, Soběslav; Fr.

Štička, Konojedy, Černý Kostelec; Joseph Vávra with sons Frank, Anton and Joseph, Mirošovice; Alois Jiskra, Křivoklát; Frank Chrastil, Mirošovice; John Chrastil and son Joseph, Mirošovice; John Dunder, Hostoun, Unhošť; Joseph Kubeš, Voseka, Milevsko; John Bajer, Staré Benátky, Nové Benátky; Fr. Kůželka, Mečeříž, Nové Benátky; Joseph Šalda, Vysoká.

These and others settled in the vicinity of Kramer, Denton, Hallam, Highland and Sprague, some had post-office in Crete or Wilber.

As an illustration of pioneer hardship, we give the following: In the early seventies Frank Chrastil settled on his homestead in the southwestern corner of Lancaster County, with his wife and two small children. Later, when his wife became ill, Chrastil went for the doctor afoot to Crete, the nearest town, eleven miles distant. He had only oxen and they would not have made greater headway. The night was stormy, he lost his way, the rain came down in torrents. He was obliged to await the dawn, before he could continue on his way and get the doctor, so sorely needed. A few miles northwest of Chrastils lived the family of Joseph Vávra. Old Mrs. Vávra had raised Mrs. Chrastil as her own child, she having been an orphan. Mrs. Vávra was known far and wide for her kindly services to homesteaders and when later Mrs. Chrastil died and there was no one to perform the burial service, she herself spoke a few words of comfort at the grave. The early-day funerals were simple, unostentatious affairs, but the sympathy and helpfulness of the pioneers made up for that. The women brought flowers from their little gardens, to garland the coffins.

All pioneers feared Indians, but those fresh from Europe doubly so. When news came to Lancaster County of the killing by Indians in Kansas of several Czechs who were known to the Czech pioneers there, it produced a sensation. People were afraid to venture forth and asked each other daily if they had not seen Indians about.

About September 14, 1878 a group of Northern Cheyenne Indians raided the state of Kansas. Crossing the boundary near the southeastern corner of Comanche County, they divided into smaller groups and attacked cattlemen along their way, in Barbour, Comanche, Clark, Meade, Ford and

Foote counties. They murdered many and wounded more, among them children and women, and slaughtered their stock. In some cases they drove stock away, after killing enough for their needs. In others they shot the animals out of pure wantonness and love for killing. Their wives and children shot arrows at cattle and drove sheep to water, where they held their heads under until they perished. They stole horses, food supplies, clothing, and whatever they could carry away, destroying the rest.

Indian warrior

When the Indians crossed the Arkansas river, near Cimarron, in Foote County, they proceeded almost due north, through the western part of Hodgman and Ness Counties, but did not do much damage. Crossing the Kansas Pacific railway near Buffalo, they approached the settlements in Sheridan, Decatur and Rawlins Counties. These were inhabited mainly by industrious and peaceful Czechs, but the Indians continued in their cruel methods. They stole or killed stock, destroyed homes and furniture, filled wells with killed poultry, murdered men and raped women. Some of the settlers fled to woods and ravines, where they hid for days without shelter, food, water and even without clothing. One boy who had been wounded escaped with only the shirt on his back.

On October 1, 1878, as the sun was rising, they ap-

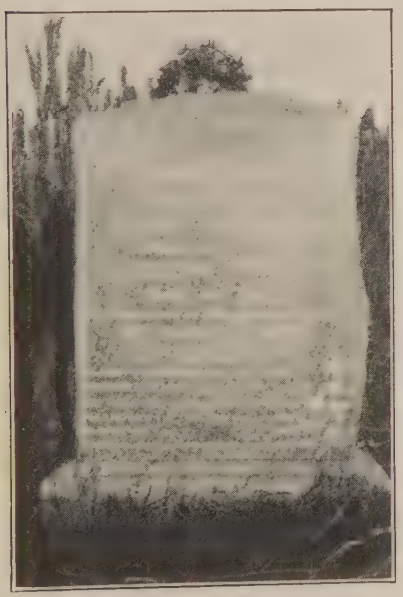
peared in the vicinity of Ludell in Rawlins County. The night before entering this valley, where lived about seven Czech homesteaders, they had killed about fourteen head of cattle. The settlement was situated in the beautiful Beaver Creek valley and began on the east with the farm of Hynek (Ignác) Janoušek and terminated four miles further west with the farm of Anton Bouda. It was on Bouda's farm that the Indians commenced their work, just as the owner was breakfasting. He stepped out and saw that several Indians were leading away his horses. Thinking they were horse thieves, he threatened them by word and gun and inasmuch as his horses were old, the Indians let them go and departed.

From Bouda's farm they proceeded to the farm of Frank Spěváček, where they were met by Frank Sochor, the aged father of Mrs. Spěváček. The old man, thinking they wanted food, came out of the house carrying several loaves of bread, but they shot him dead and ravaged the farm, culminating their work by driving a hatchet into the old man's skull and scalping him. Spěváček was not at home at the time.

Several Czechs lived in the settlement who had moved there from Saline County, when they had friends and relatives. They were Hynek, Pavel and Peter (brothers) Janoušek; Rudolph Springler, whose wife was Janoušeks' sister; Frank Vocásek, whose wife was a sister of Lancaster and Saline County pioneers, the Aksamit brothers. A daughter of another sister of the Janoušeks married Joseph Znamenáček, of Saline County. The Janoušek brothers came to America soon after 1874, their birthplace being Velká Kyšice near Unhošť. Hynek Janoušek (also called Nácek) came with his wife and children. He had owned a cottage and some tillable ground in Hatě near Kladno. Pavel (Paul) came with a large family. Peter left a wife and five small children in Hatě near Kladno, where he had property. His wife stayed behind to sell it, but when she received word of his death, she remained there. Rudolph Springler was

born in Unhošť, and came with wife and ten-year-old son. He was a carpenter in Buštěhrad near Kladno.

When these settlers heard of the Indian raids, they gathered at Hynek Janoušek's farm. Frank Vocásek had gone to the mill in Norton, Kansas, 75 miles distant, so his wife and children went to Janoušek's too. Before long Indians appeared on Springler's farm, but as there was no one there, they sent a scout to the farm of Hynek Janoušek. This scout made signs for the people to come out, so the frightened men emerged with unloaded guns, intending only to scare the Indians away. There were but three of the latter and three white men faced their captors. Each Indian grasped the hand of his prey with the words: "Hau, hau", and in the next instant each shot his victim to death. Hynek Janoušek had taken his year-and-a-half-old son Charles in his arms when he came out, thinking the child would move the Indians to have mercy. The bullet that passed through his brain glanced off from the child's forehead, but did not harm him. However, Charles Janoušek carries the mark to this day. The child's mother quickly picked it up and fled with the rest to cover.



This stone is erected in memory of Egnac Janoušek, age 52 yrs.; Peter Janoušek, age 37 yrs.; Rodolph Springler, age 41 yrs., who were shot by Indians near this spot, Oct. 1, 1878, and were here buried. A party of Northern Cheyenne Indians crossed Beaver Creek Oct. 1, 1878, on their way north from the Indian Territory. They killed twelve white men on the creek.—C. E. P.—1900.

The Indians completed their devastation by shooting stock, stealing horses and whatever they could use from the house. They cut the featherbeds and took the slips. Vocásek was postmaster, so they stole money and stamps and whatever they found in his home. All he

had left were the horses he had gone to mill with. That same day these Indians killed eight other settlers.

The wives of Hynek Janoušek, Rudolf Springler, Frank Vocásek, Anton Bouda and Paul (Pavel) Janoušek hid for several days on the farm of a Hungarian settler. Paul Janoušek at the time was working for Frank Jelínek near Crete, Saline County. His wife, on the morning of the tragedy, was about a mile distant, picking corn. The Indians pulled the kerchief off her head and then wanted to take the sack into which she was putting corn, for they thought she had something valuable in it. At that moment, however, they caught sight of a settler named Cubits and pursued him, killing him. The same fate met a Fred Hemper, near Beaver creek, Mrs. Janoušek being an unwilling witness of the horrors. Her young son was with her, so she sent him to the neighbors for help, but he returned with the dreadful news, which so stunned her that she forgot her children at home and ran to meet her friends. However, later she set out to meet Vocásek, hoping for his return and met him shortly. News of the tragedy was sent to Paul Janoušek, who immediately came and with him a Mr. Znamenáček of Saline County. The survivors intended to move away at once, but Janoušek and Znamenáček gave them fresh courage. Spěváček and Bouda had buried the bodies, with the aid of American neighbors. In 1900 a marker was erected to their memory. (Illustration and inscription on page 133).

Indian mother and child

Almost two days elapsed before the vicinity was cleared of the last Indian and Paul Janoušek's children, in their

home all that time, were found unharmed. A day later the soldiers came, but did not act with energy. Old Mr. Sochor left a wife, Mary, and a daughter Mrs. Barbara Spěváček. Mary Sochor, Mary Janoušek, Paul Janoušek, Frank Vocásek and Frank Spěváček requested the government to pay damages for the losses they sustained and these were paid in part. Vocásek was in fair circumstances for those times. At one period he owned a mill. Later he moved to Petersburg, Virginia, at present he lives in South Omaha, Nebraska. Spěváček later moved to Oklahoma and Bouda to Ord, Nebraska. The widows of Hynek Janoušek and Rudolph Springler married again. Paul Janoušek and family stayed in Kansas, where they lived to a good old age, after a lifetime of hard work. Their sons and daughters still live in that vicinity.

The merry intertwines with the sad in this life and so even this tragedy had a comical reverberation in Lancaster County. Mr. Frank Rejcha, a pioneer there, now living in Wilber, tells about it, for it happened in the home of his relative:

"My father-in-law John Chrastil sat one evening at supper with his family in his little shanty, when they heard shots in the distance. Mrs. Chrastil cried out: "Heaven help us, the Indians are coming!" Chrastil owned a large, fierce dog, but the animal, upon hearing the shooting, began to howl and scratch on the door, trying to get inside. That only intensified the excitement, for Chrastils thought the savages were in sight. Chrastil opened the door a bit, meaning to set the dog upon the Indians, but he ran into the house and crept under the bed. Chrastil pulled him out, the dog howled and resisted, the shooting re-commenced louder than before. Mrs. Chrastil knelt down with the children, to pray for mercy, and Chrastil wept to think they had come to America only to be killed by Indians. Chaos reigned, broken at last by the sounds of an accordion. So Chrastil gathered courage and stepped out, for he had never heard that Indians could play the accordion. He found that the pandemonium had been caused by his German neighbors,

who had thus been celebrating the New Year, going from farm to farm to wish each neighbor a Happy New Year!''

Frank Chrastil, who had been visiting his brother John one winter night, set out for his farm four miles distant, when he was overtaken by a blizzard. He lost his way, so sat down and waited until daylight, when he found that he was resting right next to his house.

The City of Lincoln.

Although Czechs have lived here since about 1867, it was not possible to obtain names of the first comers.

1874—The Following Were Living Here:

Louis Hromas, carpenter, his brother Charles, a boiler maker, and their mother, — all from County Čáslav; Joseph Kokeš, saloonkeeper; Frank Kokeš, a cigar maker; Frank Vosika, tailor and musician, born Roseč, Jindřichův Hradec; Joseph Kubánek, mason, Skrchleby, Nymburk; Anton Proškovec, stone cutter, later lived in Butler County; Albert Mudra, harness maker, Soběšice, Zbirov; John Suler, grocery, Jindřichův Hradec; Joseph Daněk, laborer, Krouná, Skuteč.

Chas. Hromas

1876—The Following Came:

Fr. Friauf, laborer, Čekov, Zbirov; Anton Čáslavský, tailor, Chroustovice, Chrudim; Fr. Hotovec, mason, Sokoleč, Poděbrady; Mike Čížek, mason, Hostomice, Čáslav; Fr. Šplíchal, mason, Moravské Budějovice; Fr. Straka, butcher, Žďár, Jihlava.

1878—The Following Came:

Martin Soukup, Čekov, Zbirov; Václav Soukup, laborer, Čekov, Zbirov; Joseph Vidlák, painter, Votěšice, Habry; Václav Kučera, tailor, Střitice, Chotěboř.

1883—The Following Came:

Ignác Šťastný, tailor, Ratkov, Morava; Václav Hotovec, laborer, Sokoleč, Poděbrady.

An interesting Czech inhabitant of Lincoln was John Vozáb, who lived with his wife in his son's (John J. Vozáb Jr.) home. He came to Manitowoc, Wis. as a nine-year-old boy with his parents in 1849, having been born in

Lešany near Velvary August 20, 1840. In 1862 he married Mary Šenfeld (Schoenfeld) who was born September 1841 in Citov near Mělník, and came with her parents to Manitowoc in 1857. In 1869 they came to Saline County, near Wilber, in 1880 moved to Wymore, in later years lived with their daughter in Ord, then with the son, where in May 1926 they celebrated the 64th anniversary of their wedding day. Now living in Wilber.

Colfax County – 1868

Joseph Sudík of Schuyler furnished data for Schuyler and vicinity, Jos. M. Mundil and Anton Odvárka Sr. for Clarkson and vicinity.

Colfax County was created out of a portion of Platte County on March 15, 1869 and named (as was the county seat Schuyler) for Schuyler Colfax, vice-president under President Grant. It consists of twelve townships and numbers 12,000 inhabitants. Together with Saline, Saunders, Butler and Knox Counties, it is one of the group containing, in the aggregate, a large majority of the Czech rural population in Nebraska. The vicinities of Schuyler (on Maple Creek) and Tábor (near Howell) were the first to be settled by our people, at a time when there were no roads, no bridges, no money, no provisions, no wells, no trees, but plenty of snakes and wolves. The county is bounded on the south by the Platte river and measures, from south to north, 24 miles. Along the river, in a strip six miles wide, lie lovely level lands, further north the country is rolling but famous for its fertility. Three streams traverse it from west to southeast, Shell, Dry and two-branched Maple creeks. The soil is sandy along the river in a distance of about two miles, aside from that it is rich black and yellow. Every bit of it is cultivated. When the traveler through this county beholds fine herds of cattle in fenced-in pastures, beautiful farms, yards full of hogs, flocks of poultry, poultry-houses costing $500 to $1,000, cattle pens with paved floors, and other improvements, he finds it hard to believe that the

bare prairies were changed thus in a little more than one generation. The farm homes often are finer than those in the city. They have furnaces, water piped through them, electric or gas lighting, telephones, radios and in fact all the modern conveniences. Besides various farm implements can be seen tractors, trucks and automobiles. If there is more than one son in the family, each has his automobile. Rich crops of wheat, oats and corn enable the farmers to raise stock for market. Prairie hay has made way for cultivated fields of alfalfa, timothy, clover and other grasses. Indeed, the visitor who does not know the history of our state must stand amazed to think that it is but fifty-eight years since the first settlers came here. Then it was a waste land over which rode Indians on their agile ponies, over which roamed vast herds of buffaloes, deer, antelopes and other wild game. The first settlers paid $14.00 for homesteads, or bought railroad lands for $4.00 to $6.00 per acre. Today farms are sold for $175.00 to $225.00 per acre. However, hard work and countless privations of pioneers are the foundation of this wealth.

This improvement in conditions is true not only of Colfax County, but of all counties in our state.

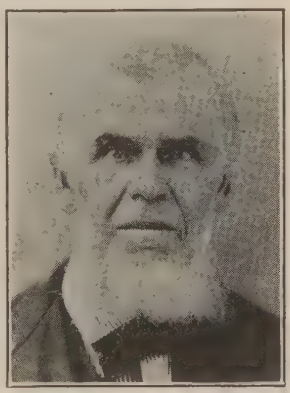
In 1867, before the Union Pacific railroad was finished, Thomas Moláček and John Novotný came from Iowa to Shell Creek (later Schuyler) to inspect land. They took up homesteads and returned to their families, with whom they set out for their new home two years later, in 1869. They were the first Czechs, as far as is known, to enter Colfax County and take claims, but not the first actual settlers.

1868—The Following Came:

John Moural, born 1822 in Hluboká, County Budějovice, died in Richland 1907, and Frank Kovářík, born 1814 in Třeboň, died 1907, buried in Schuyler. Both men brought their families and with Moural came his grown son John, born in Hluboká, County of Budějovice. Some of his reminiscences follow herewith:

"Jacob Moural was my father and Frank Kovářík my foster-father, for Kováříks had no children. Although they

never adopted me legally, they made me their heir. My father, Jacob Moural, was born in Hluboká, County Budějovice, Bohemia, in 1822, my mother's maiden name was Elizabeth (Alžběta) Kovář. Frank Kovářík was born in 1814 in Třeboň, Bohemia, and his wife's name was Anna. In 1854 both families set out from Bremen in a sailing vessel, going to America they knew not where, for they knew no one here. My parents brought with them a daughter Mary, a year and a half old. After a stormy voyage lasting thirteen weeks and three days, they landed in Quebec, Canada. Being unable to find work, they went to Cleveland, Ohio, one hundred miles distant, and in vain. Their savings were gone, no employment to be had, they were in a strange country and did not know the language—a desperate condition. At last Kovářík obtained work. He helped a Jewish butcher drive stock to the slaughter-house and as pay he got a head and parts of the viscera, heart, liver, etc. Thus the two families found sustenance for two weeks. They returned to Quebec and in the spring of 1855 the men found work at their carpentering trade, at $1.00 per day. They worked thus for twelve years and having saved part of their earnings, in 1868 Moural went to Nebraska with two friends, Pintner and Peška. In Omaha V. L. Vodička advised them to go to Colfax County, where they took homesteads near Richland, then of course still non-existent. They built the first frame buildings in the vicinity and returned to Omaha, to work during winter. In the spring Moural and Pešek settled on their homesteads, but Pintner returned to Cleveland, giving up his claim. Pešek sold his farm, after proving on it and moved to Kansas. Moural and Kovářík were the first settlers in the Platte valley between Columbus and Schuyler, the latter being at the time but a railroad



Jacob Moural

station, where one store, that of Smith Bros., helped to make the "town". Jacob Moural had three children: Mary (already mentioned), John, born July 12, 1859 and Anna, born in 1860. Mary married John Stibal. Anna married F. J. Diviš and died a tragic death, by her own hand, taking with her five of her six children. Mrs. Kovářík died in 1878, Kovářík in 1907 (both are buried in Schuyler). Mrs. Moural died in 1904 and Moural in 1907 (buried in Richland). John Moural married Anna Roušar in 1879. Seven children were born to them. In 1915 they retired from farming and live in Schuyler. At the present time Moural is serving his second term as county commissioner.

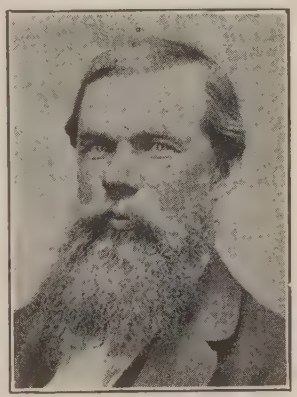
In 1868 also came Frank Folda, the first Czech resident of the town of Schuyler. The Foldas, pioneers of Colfax County, occupy a rather unique position, as a family of financiers, among Czechs in Nebraska. Our people, as a rule, are satisfied with moderate though steady gains for their work, enough to assure comfort in old age. They do not, as a class, possess the daring necessary to grasp financial opportunities where it means risking a larger amount of money. The Foldas, seven brothers and their cousin and uncle, have no compeers in our state in some respects, and therefore are worthy of special mention. They have not only known how to make fortunes, but were ever ready to do their share as good citizens, supporting all worthy public causes.

Fr. and Anna Kovářík
John Moural

Martin Folda, father of Frank, was born in Holovousy, 1812, died in Colfax County in 1895. He married Marie Konopík, born in Holovousy, died in 1892, in Colfax County. They came to Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, in 1854, with their children, excepting their eldest son John who was in his native

land, in military service. The sons were Frank (born 1839 in Holovousy), Joseph (born 1849 in Holovousy) and daughter Frances. John (born 1836 in Holovousy), after being wounded in battle, was allowed to go home for a while and then escaped in 1860 and followed his parents. With the exception of Frank, they all farmed. Frank early evinced his business ability by establishing in Manitowoc a general merchandise store.

In 1863 our homestead law became effective and Nebraska attracted settlers. Many came from Wisconsin, because clearing land there was slow and hard work. Thus in 1868 Frank Folda set out for Schuyler with his wife (Johanna Ericksen), arriving when the town had but two houses. He built the third. He returned for the other members and in 1869 his parents and brothers followed, the sister having married a Mr. Seibert in Wisconsin, where she died.



Frank Folda

The financial genius of the family was Frank and in those days opportunities were great. He knew how to grasp them. He acquired much land and cattle, established a grain and land business, and prospered on all sides, while the settlers poured in. These he helped and advised, for few could speak English, so that an influential and trustworthy compatriot who could, was of great aid to them. In 1887 he established the first Folda bank, in Schuyler, the first of its kind west of the Missouri River. It became the foundation for five more, those in Howell, Clarkson and Rogers (Colfax County), Linwood (Butler County) and Pilger (Stanton County). In 1875 he was a member of our state legislature, as representative, on the democratic ticket. In 1879 he was nominated on that ticket for state treasurer and in 1888 for lieutenant-governor (democrat), but the re-

publicans were in the majority in those days and he did not win. In 1887 in company with several prominent democrats he established a Czech weekly Nová Doba (democrat), which was suspended in 1892. Mr. Folda died in 1892 (his wife in 1914) and left the memory of a kindly gentleman, whose innate courtesy and helpfulness to his countrymen never changed with his rising fortunes. He donated to the Těl. Jed. Sokol the building site in Schuyler, on which they expect some day to build a fine auditorium. He had two children, a daughter Martha, who died in 1919, and a son Engelbert F., who is president of the parent-bank Banking House of F. Folda in Schuyler and of the Bank of Rogers, besides being interested in banks in Omaha, where he now lives.

We have placed Frank Folda first, because he founded the banking business of this family, but John Folda was the elder. With his wife (Josephine Sinkula, born in Prodeslady) he settled in 1869 on a farm near Schuyler. In 1879 his wife died and he married Miss Catherine Pánek. His seven sons all became bankers and were destined to follow in the footsteps of their uncle. John Folda died in 1895 and is buried, as are his parents, in the Czech Catholic cemetery near Heun, part of which site he had donated. His sons were: Lambert, Longin, Emil, Adolph, Rainold, Jaroslav and John.

Lambert Folda, (born in Manitowoc 1862, died in 1910), was a druggist until 1887, when with his uncle and Joseph Šmatlán he established the bank in Howell, where he was active until his death.

Longin, (born in Tisch Mills, Wisconsin, March 15, 1864, died in Corpus Christi, Texas, April 17, 1923), first assisted his uncle, then took a position in the First National Bank of Schuyler, while being active in the Folda banks In 1897 he bought the Clarkson State Bank, later removing to Corpus Christi. He was talented in a literary way, having written a play "The Merchant And The Poet" and was author of a system of books to be used in bank accounting, which he copyrighted.

Emil Folda, the oldest of the now living brothers, was born in Manitowoc County, Wis. in 1866. He is president of the Clarkson State Bank, in which town he resides, and also of the Colfax County Bank of Howell, Farmers & Merchants Bank of Linwood and the Pilger State Bank of Pilger, besides being interested in others. At present he is a member of the State Bankers Guarantee Fund Commission. He started in the banking business in 1889, at a salary of $5.00 per month and board. His first home was a sod house. When he came with his parents in 1869 there were only three farms within twelve miles north of Schuy-

Adolph Rainold Jaroslav
Lambert Longin Emil
Six of the seven Folda brothers

ler. No bridges, no roads and no horses, only oxen, with which to travel to the nearest trading point forty miles away, West Point in Cuming County. Most of the settlers made coffee of roasted grain and sugar was scarce. He remembers the grasshoppers of 1874 and several years thereafter, as also the great dust storm in April 1880, which lasted for several days and piled the dirt, blown from the fields, in banks many feet high. He remembers too the great blizzard of January 12, 1888. The early prairie fires that swept everything out of sight, unless well protected; the great snow storms that followed and swirled over the smooth, burned-out lands; the Indians; wild game, that had

to be driven off, so it would not eat the seed in the field; antelope and deer; creeks full of buffalo, elk and deer-horns, —all this he remembers and has seen vanish like a scene upon which the curtain falls, to rise again and show a changed landscape. Mr. Folda married Miss Emily Pešek who died in 1904. He then married Miss Antonie Sadílek, daughter of F. J. Sadílek, well-known pioneer of Wilber. By his first marriage he had a son, Albin, killed in the World War, and a daughter, Laura (Mrs. Jos. A. Kučera). By the second marriage a daughter Olga.

Adolph Folda was born in Manitowoc County in 1869 and died in 1914. He was cashier of the Colfax County Bank of Howell at the time of his death. His son, Lambert, is now assistant cashier there.

Rainold Folda was born in 1873 in Colfax County and died in 1906. He was assistant cashier of the Clarkson State Bank at the time of his death. His only son Lorence is now teller in a large bank in San Diego, Calif.

Jaroslav Folda was born in 1875 in Colfax County and is cashier and manager of the Banking House of F. Folda, which totals a million and a half dollars. He is also vice-president of the Bank of Rogers.

John Folda was born in 1887 in Colfax County and is active as managing vice-president of the Colfax County Bank of Howell.

Martin Folda's third son Joseph remained a farmer all his life and died in 1904. More than twenty male descendants of Martin Folda lived in Nebraska (death having taken some in late years) and all attained prominent places. Could they have achieved all this in the little, humble village of Holovousy, whence their grandfather came?

1869—The Following Came:

John Stibal, born May 2, 1847, in Jetřichoves, County Pacov. He came to the United States in 1867, in a sailing vessel, the trip on water lasting 35 days. His goal was Milwaukee, Wis., later he moved to Omaha and then to his homestead near Richland, where he is living at date of writing.

Joseph Papež, born in Jetřichoves, County Pacov, 1843. He came to the United States in 1867 and settled near Milwaukee, Wis., by trade a tailor. Later he removed to Nebraska. More detailed mention

of him in the history of Boone County, where he lives in Albion.

Frank Vaško, born in Chrudim, in 1832. He came to St. Louis, Mo. in 1866, then to Colfax County, near Heun, where he is buried.

Thomas Moláček, born in Osek, County Chrudim, 1830, died in 1894 and is buried in Heun. He came to the United States with his family in 1867, settling on a farm near Cedar Rapids, then to Colfax County, where he settled fifteen miles north of Schuyler.

John F. Sobota
Son of Joseph Sobota

John Faltys, Mr. Moláček's stepson, born in Libějice, Vysoké Mýto, died in 1895, aged 44 years, buried in Heun.

John Lapáček, born 1823 in Bezděčín, County Pacov, died in 1871 and is buried in Heun. He came to the United States to Chicago in 1868, then to his homestead in Colfax, thirteen miles north of Schuyler.

Charles Lapáček, his son, born in Krtov, County Tábor, 1844, who also took a claim. Now living with his son Frank near Heun.

Joseph Sobota, born 1819 in Losina, County Blovice, died in 1901 and is buried in Heun. He came to the United States with wife, two sons and five daughters, in 1861. He settled in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, where they farmed for eight years. Then they came to Colfax County, where he took a homestead eleven miles north of Schuyler.

Václav Dvořák, born 1824 in Nebužele near Mělník. He came to Wisconsin in 1855, then to Nebraska, settling on a homestead twelve miles north of Schuyler. In 1873 he sold it and established a grain market in Schuyler. About that time he built a mill on Shell Creek, five miles northwest of Schuyler, where he prospered. He had four sons: Vincent, Adolph, Stephen and Emil and three daughters: Mesdames Anna Grimmison, Julia Jenkins and Mary Moore. He died in 1916 and is buried in Schuyler.

John Novotný Jr.

Martin Lodl, born 1836 in Buček, near Kralovice and came first to Wisconsin. Died Nov. 1, 1919, and is buried in Heun.

John Novotný Jr., born 1847 in Polička. In 1856 he came with parents and two brothers to the vicinity of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. With his brother Frank and the family of Tom Moláček he came to Nebraska in 1869 in a covered wagon, to settle on the claims taken in 1867, fifteen miles north of Schuyler. In July, 1870, with his brother Novotný returned to Cedar Rapids, to help the rest

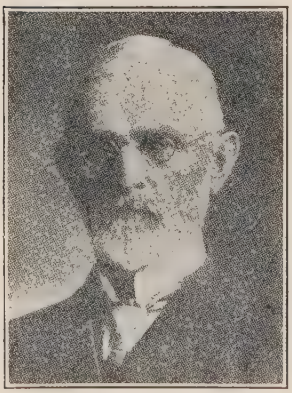
of his family get ready to move to Nebraska which they did. With them in that year (1870) came the families of Joseph Šmatlán, Frank Zrůst, Joseph Vítek, Joseph Dudek and Anton Kunhart. The homesteads taken by the members of the Novotný family fifty years ago are still in their possession. In 1878 Mr. Novotný moved to Schuyler, where with Joseph Šmatlán he engaged in the lumber business, at the same time farming a large farm near Schuyler which he had bought. Now retired, living in San Benito, Texas, with wife, son and daughter. Spends his summers in Schuyler.

Frank Novotný, brother of above mentioned. Born 1850 in Polička, Bohemia. Came to Iowa in 1856, died in Colfax County 1924 and is buried in Sion cemetery.

Felix Ševčík, born in Milá Ves, County Domažlice, Bohemia, in 1844, came to this country in 1863, to Ohio, where his uncle Peter Steinberger lived. Later his parents followed him and he went with them to Kewaunee, Wisconsin, where he married Margaret Valenta. In 1869 he moved with his father-in-law to Colfax County, each taking a claim ten miles northwest of Schuyler. His four children are: Anna Clara, who married L. J. Palda of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mrs. K. F. Kirchner, Circle, Montana, Mrs. A. V. Vondráček, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Felix Jr., Hillsboro, Ill. In 1879 Ševčík sold his farm and moved to Schuyler, where he did blacksmithing until 1892, when he moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He died there May 23, 1926.

1870—The Following Came:

Václav Vítek, born 1828 in Hněvetice near Vysoké Mýto. He came first to Iowa, in 1868, then to Colfax, where he died in 1913 and is buried in Sion cemetery.



Joseph Šmatlán

His son Joseph, born in 1853 in Čachnov, Hlinsko. He farmed his father's homestead, handing it over to his son John. Living with his wife in Schuyler.

Joseph Houfek, born May 8, 1816 in Kněžice, County Čáslav. He came to Omaha in 1869 with his three sons and daughter. They had no money and for a year worked in an Omaha brickyard. The following spring they came to Colfax County, taking a claim nine miles north of Schuyler. He died in 1878 and is buried in Dry Creek.

Joseph Šmatlán, born August 11, 1844 in Telecí, County Chrudim, married Anna Telecký in 1865 and the next day they started for the United States, landing in New York, after spending 70 days on the sea in a sailing vessel. They arrived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where Mr. Šmatlán worked in a brickyard for $15.00 a month. Then he rented a farm, later removing to Colfax County, where he took a homestead fifteen miles north of Schuyler. In 1878 he moved to Schuyler, where in company with John Novotný he conducted a lumber and coal busi-

ness. In 1891 he bought out his partner and with his sons continued the business until 1901, when he retired. His wife died January 29, 1912 and is buried in Schuyler.

Others Who Came In 1870 Were:

Joseph Kovářík, Širakovice, Čáslav; Joseph Míšek, Okřesanec, Čáslav; Thomas Janda, Spytice, Čáslav; Joseph Fiala, Habry, Čáslav; Joseph Novotný, born 1852 in Polička, came to Iowa in 1856; Joseph Dudek, born in Daňkovice, Moravia, in 1829, settled in Sec. 8, T. 20, R. 3, died 1906. His wife, born 1842, died 1917, both buried in Clarkson; Frank Zrůst, Telecí, Polička; Anton Kunhart, Telecí Polička; Peter Lodl, born in Prodeslady,Kralovice, Aug. 1, 1818, came from Wisconsin. Died in 1886, buried in Heun; John Novotný Sr., born 1805 in Polička, came to Iowa 1856, died 1888, buried in Sion cemetery.

Frank Stibal, born Jan. 20, 1847 in Dol near Tábor, came to Wisconsin with his brother John in 1868. That year he moved to Omaha, married Frances Rank and the year following moved to Colfax County. He died January 4, 1916 and is buried in Schuyler.

Frank Otradovský, born 1846 in Čáslav, came to Chicago in 1866, then to Colfax County. Died in 1910, buried in Schuyler.

Joseph Kratochvil, born January 28, 1826 in Kněžice, died in Schuyler January 8, 1906. He came with his family direct to Omaha, crossing the Missouri on a ferry. In Omaha he bought a team of oxen and provisions, stowing same with his family in a covered wagon, wife and seven children. They set out for Colfax County, where he had a homestead thirteen miles north of Schuyler. They travelled by day, at night slept under the sky. The trip lasted four days, now easily made in two hours. Of the seven children, the following are dead: Anna (Mrs. Chris. Wille), Barbara (Mrs. Joseph Faltys), Frank. The following are living: Carrie (Mrs. Joseph Kratochvil), Mary (Mrs. John Janeček), Fannie (Mrs. F. J. Fitle) and James.

In 1870 a caravan arrived in what is now Lincoln Precinct, consisting of two wagons. In one was the family of Thomas Dostal, who was born in Velká Olešná, Německý Brod. In the other were Joseph F. Šindelář, born in Stehlovice, Milevsko, and family; Thomas Šindelář, born in Stehlovice, Milevsko, and wife; F. J. Jonáš, born in Chýnava, County Unhošt, and wife, and Václav Šindelář, single, born in Stehlovice, Milevsko. John Malý, a farmer living three miles from West Point, Cuming County, led them to their goal, surveyed their homesteads and provided them with necessary documents. In short, acted as locator. In June the first cow appeared on the scene. J. B. Šindelář (now living in Howell), having sent the money to his father Joseph F. for same. His sister, now Mrs. Schultz, helped. Both she and he had been left in Chicago, there being no money with which to pay their fares. F. J. Jonáš had come to Balti-

J. B. Šindelář

more in 1866, where he became acquainted with the Šindelář family and married the daughter Anna, both accompanying the rest on their way to Nebraska. Mr. Jonáš prospered, for he soon established a store and saloon in the colony and later was postmaster of a postoffice called Arlington, which was abolished when the Northwestern railroad was built. In the early eighties he sold out and moved to Holt County, near Atkinson, where his children took homesteads. With Frank Krajíček he established a brewery there, but neither understood the business and did not succeed. Later he became active in politics, being a good speaker and was appointed superintendent of the reform school in Kearney, under president Cleveland. He had twelve children, only one dying in early childhood, the rest are living. He was killed by a train in the State Fair Grounds in Lincoln Aug. 6, 1915. His wife died in Los Angeles in June, 1920, both are buried in Lincoln. His younger brother, George, lives in Holt County.

1871—The Following Came:

John Pokorný, born in Hrejkovice, Milevsko, came to Colfax County direct, died in 1912 and is buried in Heun.

Frank Břicháček, born in Hrejkovice, 1841, came direct to Colfax County, settling eleven miles north of Schuyler, near Heun. Died July 16, 1920 and buried in Heun.

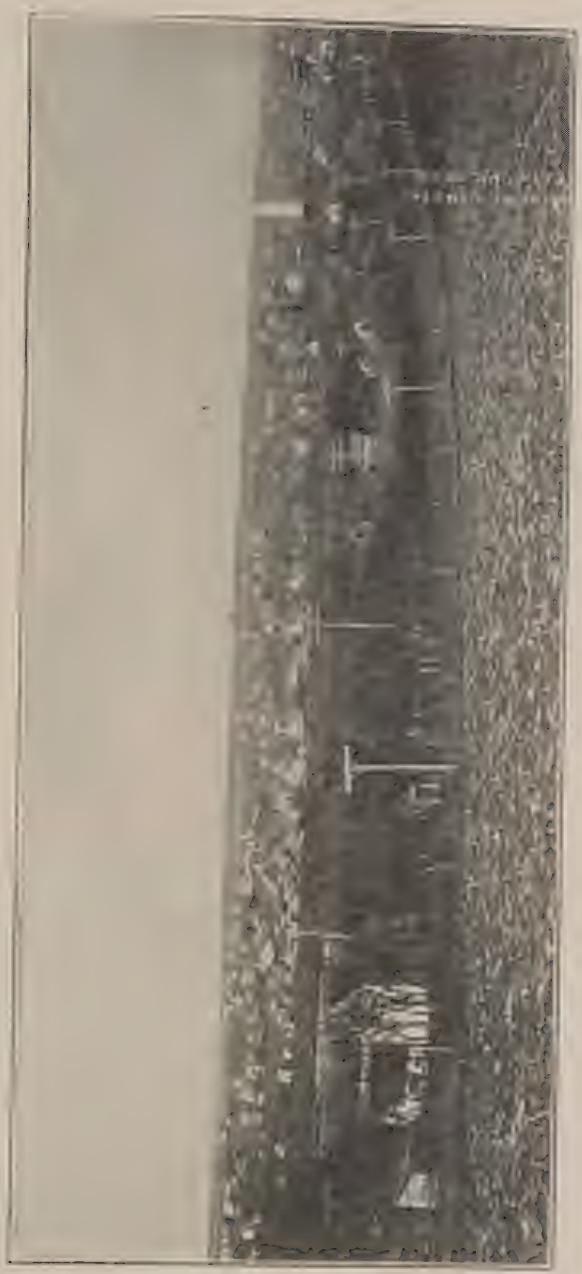
Mary Votýpka, born Sept. 25, 1853, in Prodeslady, came with her parents Václav Sinkula and wife to Manitowoc County, Wis., in 1854. In 1871 she came to Colfax County, to visit a married sister, Mrs. John Folda, and later married John Faltys, in 1873. He died March 3, 1895, is buried in Heun, and Mrs. Faltys married Joseph Pospíšil, who died in 1911, whereupon she married George Votýpka and lives in Schuyler.

Joseph Cibulka was born in Litomyšle, Bohemia, in 1859. His father died in 1867 and he came to this country in 1871, with his mother and step-father, settling on a homestead in Section 27, Township 20, Range 3, seventeen miles north of Schuyler. The boy Joseph had to go afoot to Schuyler for small purchases, for instance five or ten cents' worth of matches, or to take a letter to the postoffice, his dinner consisting of a slice of bread. Later he took a homestead of 160 acres in Section 28, Township 20, Range 3, near his parents. In 1886 he built and conducted a saloon in Clarkson, which he sold in 1896 and moved with family to Haugen, Wisconsin. A year later they returned to Nebraska and in 1899 moved to Scio, Oregon, but again returned. In 1923 he moved with family to Buhl, Idaho, where he died January 9, 1929. His wife (born Helen Hruška) died in 1927, both are buried in Buhl. He left four daughters and a son (Louis) in good circumstances.

Matěj Dobrý, born in 1823 in Kněžice near Ronov, came to Omaha April 15, 1870, then to Colfax County, where he settled on a claim nine miles north of Schuyler. He died Oct. 12, 1903 and is buried in Heun.

1872—The Following Came:

John Polák, Frank Polák, Martin Křenek and Joseph Křenek. John Polák met his death in a prairie fire, as described elsewhere.



View of Clarkson, an almost entirely Czech town

His son Frank Polák, born in Kardašova Řečice, Veselý County, in 1841, came to Colfax County direct and bought 80 acres eight miles north of Schuyler. He died May 26, 1911 and is buried in Schuyler. His family is now living near Hartington, in Cedar County.

Joseph Dudek

Martin Křenek, born in Kardašova Řečice, Oct. 21, 1820, came direct with wife and three children and settled next to Polák, the families having come to this country together. He died in 1907 and is buried in Dry Creek. His son Joseph, born in Bohemia Feb. 8, 1855, farmed the old homestead until 1905, now living in Schuyler.

1873—The Following Came:

Matěj Bartuněk and sons Joseph, John and Frank. Matěj Bartuněk was born in Opařany near Tábor in 1838 and came with his family to Chicago in 1872, a year later to Colfax County. He bought a farm of 80 acres eight miles northwest of Schuyler for $400.00, later adding to it. Died in 1894 and buried in Heun.

John Čech, born in Okrešice near Třebíč in 1850, came with his brother Frank direct to Colfax County. He farmed and worked at his trade as carpenter. Later moved to Schuyler, where he died Oct. 14, 1907 and is buried there.

Frank Čech, born in Okrešice, Moravia, in 1835, came with his family of nine to Colfax County and bought a farm ten miles north of Schuyler. He died in Schuyler July 9, 1907 and is buried there.

Pankrác Husák took a claim seventeen miles north of Schuyler, where he died in 1908 and is buried in Sion cemetery. His son Joseph, born in Zálesí, County Nové Město, Moravia, in 1858, farmed the old homestead until 1921, when he retired to Schuyler, handing the farm over to his children.

Matěj Kopáč, born in Velenovy, Klatovy, in 1836, settled in West Point in 1872, where he worked for a year in the mill, then took a homestead half a mile west of Howell, where he lived eleven years, moving to a farm eleven miles from Schuyler, where he died in 1894 and is buried in Heun.

John Koliha, born in Staré Sedlo, Tábor, May 29, 1839, came direct to Colfax County, where he farmed ten miles north of Schuyler until his death July 4, 1903. Buried near Heun.

Václav Sinkule, born in Prodeslady in 1818, came with his family to Manitowoc, Wis. in 1854, where he had a farm and a saloon. In 1873 he moved to Colfax County and bought a farm twelve miles north of Schuyler. He died there in 1886 and is buried in Heun.

1874—The Following Came:

John Kovář and his sons Edward, Frank, John, Anton and Joseph. John Kovář was born in Koleč, Moravia, May 12, 1834. He arrived

in New York in 1874 and three days later in Schuyler. He bought 120 acres seven miles north of Schuyler for $10.00 per acre. In 1906 he retired with his wife to Schuyler, where he died in 1924 and is buried there. He donated five acres for the cemetery and church in Dry Creek.

Václav Vácha, born in Bechyně near Tábor in 1831, came to Cleveland in 1864, where he worked at his trade of cooper. In 1869 he settled on a claim in Butler County, near Linwood, but sold it and bought 160 acres of railroad land in Colfax County. He died in Schuyler in 1900 and is buried there.

Václav Míšek, born in Okřesanec, Čáslav, in 1845, came direct to Colfax County and settled on a farm twelve miles north of Schuyler. He farmed there until 1905, when he retired. Living with his wife in Schuyler.

Thomas Vrba, born in Černice, Kralovice, in 1850. He married Mary Lodl, both living in Heun. Matěj Vrba, his brother, came at the same time, is buried in Heun.

1875—The Following Came:

Jacob Mareš, born in Starč, Třebíč, Moravia, in 1836. He brought his sons Joseph, Ludwig and Constantine, and bought 160 acres eight miles east of Schuyler. Died in 1890 and buried in Schuyler.

Frank Herbrich and his sons Frank, Martin and John. He was born in Hlistov, County Třebíč, Moravia, in 1818 and came direct to Colfax County. He bought an improved farm for $2,200.00. He was in better circumstances than most immigrants, for he brought with him $3,000. Died in 1888, buried in Dry Creek.

Frank Vaníček, born in Slavice, County Třebíč, Moravia, in 1817. Came with his family direct to Colfax County, where he bought a farm fourteen miles north of Schuyler. Died in 1890, buried in Heun.

John Roušar, born in Milovy, County Hlinsko, in 1839. Came direct to Schuyler and bought a farm west of town, where he died in 1889. Buried in Schuyler.

Jacob Krula, born 1825 in Sádek, Moravia. Bought 80 acres for $1,100.00, but did not enjoy his new home long, died two years later.

Frank W. Prokeš

1876—The Following Came:

Joseph Faltys, born in Nadesný, County Vysoké Mýto, in 1841. He came with his family to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1874 and two years later to Colfax County, where they settled on a farm eighteen miles north of Schuyler. He died in 1920 and is buried in Clarkson.

Joseph Krejčí, born Dec. 17, 1830, in Volešná, County Čáslav, came to Omaha in 1875, then to Colfax County, where he bought 80 acres eight miles north of Schuyler. He died there in 1913 and is buried in Schuyler.

Václav Sudík, born in 1839 in Měnany near Beroun, came with his family to

Omaha in November, 1875. The following February they removed to Colfax. In 1904 Mr. Sudík sold his 200-acre farm and removed with his three sons to Oklahoma, where he died March 27, 1925, and is buried near Oklahoma City.

Other Pioneers, Who Came After 1876:

Frank Coufal, born in Petrovice, County of Třebíč, Moravia, in 1823. He came with wife and three sons and settled on a farm eleven miles north of Schuyler, where he died in 1908. Buried near Heun.

Andrew (Ondřej) Konopík, born in 1832 in Lohov, Nová Kdyně. He came to Saunders County with his family in 1872 and in 1882 moved to Colfax County, settling on a farm thirteen miles northwest of Schuyler. He died in 1911, his wife in 1916, both buried in Wilson.

Frank Brodecký, born Nov. 19,1826, in Liblín, Kralovice, died March 25, 1899.

Joseph Hájek, born in 1810 in Lipník, died March 11, 1886.

The Town of Schuyler

The first Czech resident was Frank Folda, who came in 1868.

1870—The Following Came:

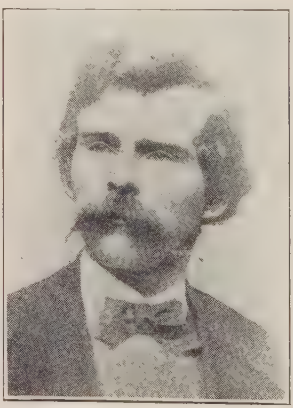
John Lapáček, Jr., born in Bezděčin, County Pacov, in 1854. He came with his parents to Chicago in November, 1868. In April, 1869, they moved to Omaha and in 1870 to Schuyler, where later he became county treasurer. Died in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1902.

Anton Langer, born in Počeplice near Štětín in 1844. He came to New York in 1866, in 1868 to Omaha and in 1870 to Schuyler, where he was the first photographer. He died in 1924 and is buried in Schuyler.

Joseph Šrámek, a blacksmith; Frank Pešek, a blacksmith and later a saloonkeeper and Anton Jansa. No further particulars available.

1872—The Following Came:

Joseph Dvořák (born in 1846). With his parents he lived first in Mishicott, Wis. In 1868 he came to Omaha, where with Joseph W. Zerzan he owned a grocery store. Married Anna Shonka and settled in Schuyler, at first conducting a general merchandise store. As county clerk he was the first Czech to hold county office. His wife died in 1889, he in 1897, both buried near Abie.



Joseph Dvořák

1873—The Following Came:

Peter Rank, born in Miletice near Nová Kdyně, in 1844. He came to Pittsburg, Pa., in 1866, where he worked as carpenter. In 1868 he married Mary Killian (born in 1850) and moved to a claim in Saunders

County, near Morse Bluff, working on the railroad while his wife farmed. In 1873 he moved to Schuyler, where he opened a saloon and later a store. Still later he built a hall, with three stores on the ground floor and a dance hall in the upper story. When it was destroyed by fire, in 1888, he built a large brick building, still standing. Mrs. Rank died in 1890, he in 1892, meeting death by explosion of gas in the basement of his hall. Both are buried in Schuyler.

Václav Malý, born in Vetlá, County Mělník, in 1846. He came to Mishicott, Wis., with his parents in 1854, where they farmed. In 1867 he settled on a claim near West Point, selling later and moving to Schuyler. He first worked for Frank Folda and later established a general merchandise store. Died in 1925 and buried in Schuyler.

John Janeček, born in Žehušice, Čáslav.

1875—The Following Came:

Frank Vaníček, born in 1838 in Moravia. By trade a shoemaker Died in 1905 and buried in Schuyler.

F. F. Svoboda, born in 1845 in Starč, Třebíč, Moravia. He came with his father-in-law Frank Vaníček. For years he has been janitor of the C. S. P. S. and Tel Jed. Sokol lodge halls.

Jos. W. Zerzan

Joseph Kubík, born in 1857 in Záboří, Skuč. In 1867 he came with his parents to Iowa, where they farmed. In 1870 they moved to Butler County, Nebraska, and later Kubík came to Schuyler, where he engaged in business. Died April 30, 1900, and buried in Schuyler.

Joseph W. Zerzan, a prominent Czech of Schuyler, came in 1876. He was born in Újezd, Litomyšle, April 4, 1848, and died in Schuyler Feb. 20, 1915. In 1866 he came to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with his parents and taught school there for two years. In 1868 he came to Nebraska, where in Omaha he engaged in the grocery business with his future brother-in-law Joseph Dvořák. In 1871 he went to West Point, having married Miss Mary Shonka in 1870. In West Point he conducted a general merchandise store and in 1876 located on a homestead in Colfax County, teaching school that winter. A year later he entered the employ of Jellison & Miller, dealers in hardware and machinery in Schuyler and later with John Nieman he purchased the business, conducting it for ten years. Thereupon he devoted his time to real estate, loans and the insurance business, being also active in lodge work. He spoke, read and wrote Bohemian, English and German and always supported all cultural projects. His six children (all living, as is his wife) are: Mrs. Charles J. Šafařík, Schuyler; Mrs. M. J. Bouše, David City; Mrs. L. Stopka, Chicago; Edward W. Zerzan, (at time of writing mayor of Schuyler); Dr. Geo. F. Zerzan, Holyrood, Kansas, and Charles J Zerzan, Portland, Oregon.

Joseph Čuda, born in Saunders County in 1876, where his parents settled in 1868. In 1899 he married Vincencie Diviš, in 1904 they moved to Schuyler, where both live.

John and Clara Prokeš came to Butler County in 1873, where they bought 160 acres. He died in 1905 and is buried in Schuyler, his wife died in 1878 and is buried in Abie. They were the parents of Martin, John and Frank Prokeš, prominent citizens of Schuyler.

John Prokeš

The oldest brother, Martin, married Barbara Coufal in 1877 and with his brother, John, conducted a meat market in Schuyler until 1898, when he lost his life by an accident. His children are: Joseph, Emil, John, Stazie (Mrs. George Shonka), Ludmila (Mrs. Ed. Zerzan) and Hedvika, a nun.

John Prokeš married Anna Simondynes of Wahoo in 1878. He came to Schuyler in 1875 and joined his brothers in the meat business. His children are: Alois (Louis), John and Louisa (Mrs. Will Dvořák). He died in 1924, in California, where he and his wife lived in winter. He was a prominent man and held public office, in his later years being president of the Schuyler State Bank.

Frank Prokeš, born Oct. 1, 1864, in Jaroměřice, Moravia, married Marie Sobolík in 1888. His children are: Editha (Mrs. Joseph Lauvetz of Wahoo) and Miss Sylvia. He first engaged in the meat business, then conducted a saloon and later was member of the lumber firm of Higgins & Prokeš. A prominent and popular citizen. Served as councilman for two terms and as county commissioner for two terms.

M. F. Bednář, born Nov. 12, 1847 in Jindřichův Hradec.

Frank Chrastil, born in 1857 in Velvary, died in 1904.

Joseph Sudík, born in Železná, County Unhošt, November 10, 1859, son of Václav (mentioned above) and Mary (Bartoš) Sudík. He came with them to Omaha in November, 1875. The father bought a farm in Colfax County, nine miles northeast of Schuyler, where the whole family moved February 1, 1876. January 21, 1882 Joseph Sudík married Barbara Jonáš, daughter of Anton Jonáš, who had brought his family to Colfax County in April, 1881, and whose brothers, Frank J. and

Joseph and Barbara Sudík

George Jonáš, were already living there. Sudíks farmed on eighty acres of railroad land until 1909, when they retired to Schuyler, where they now live.

F. H. Svoboda, who at one time published the first and only Czech juvenile magazine in our state (Zlatá Hvězda—The Golden Star), as described in the chapter on publications, at present is proprietor of a photographic gallery. He was born in Kynice, Moravia, in 1871. With his parents he emigrated to Saunders County, Nebraska, in 1872. He attended public school, then prepared himself for the teaching profession in Fremont, where he also studied Czech. He became a teacher and having married Miss Clara Gruntorád (1895), moved to Prague, Saunders County, where he taught school five years, during four of which he was principal. He taught Czech on Fridays. Then he moved to Schuyler, where he began to publish "The Golden Star", thus realizing a dream of many years, but was unsuccessful after all, from the financial view. He again taught school, then engaged in photography and in 1909 began to publish the Schuyler Messenger. In 1920 he was succeeded by his son, Amos, whereupon he resumed photography. His brother, Peter F. Svoboda, born in 1873, is a member of the undertaking firm Svoboda & Son. He attended the state university and in 1894 married Miss Agnes Roh, who died in 1916. In 1918 he married Mrs. Mary Bukáček. He farmed his father's farm until 1918, when he handed it over to his son. His partner in the undertaking business is his stepson, Ludwig Bukáček.

F. H. Svoboda

F. J. Diviš, son of a Butler County pioneer, Joseph Diviš, was born 1858 in Litovany, Moravia. In 1880 he began to farm on Shell Creek and in 1924 retired to Schuyler.

When the branch road of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley (Northwestern) Railroad was built west from Scribner, Howell and Clarkson were founded in the early eighties and are thriving towns. Clarkson is almost entirely settled by Czechs.

The first settlers, of whom we have record in the vicinity of Clarkson, long before the town was founded, are:

1871—The Following Came:

Václav Klimeš, born in Nová Ves near Nové Hrady; Joseph and Frank Franěk, Nové Hrady.

1874—The Following Came:

Joseph Kocanda, born in Nová Huč, Moravia; Fr. Najmon, Fryšava; Frank Fajmon, Mrhov, near Polička, born 1816, settled in Sec. 10, T. 20

R. 3, died 1911, his wife in 1903. Both buried in Clarkson. With him came his sons, Joseph, Vincent, Adolph, Albin and daughter, Josephine (Mrs. Fr. Dudek). John Petr, Spilkov, Moravia.

By 1875 settlers began to pour into the vicinity, so that by 1878 no homesteads were to be had and only railroad land at $4.00 to $5.00 per acre, on ten years' time, was available.

1875—The Following Came:

John Petr, Sr., born in Daňkovice, County Nové Město, Moravia, August 2, 1844. He came direct to Colfax County and settled on 160 acres in Adams Precinct. At his retirement he owned 640 acres of land. His orchard was the largest in the county at the time. He lives now with his daughter, Mrs. John D. Bukáček, in Howell, hale and hearty at eighty-one years of age.

John Koza and father, John Sr., from Spilkov, Moravia, Frank Mundil, Františky, Bohemia; Frank Musil, Fryšava, Moravia.

Other Pioneers, Now Living in Clarkson, Are:

Joseph M. Mundil, born in Františky, County of Skuteč, Bohemia, August 14, 1856. He came to this country to his uncle, Frank Mundil, who had come with family in 1875 and taken a homestead in the northern part of the county. Mr. Mundil began to make his way at first by working in a saloon in Schuyler, but he did not like that kind of occupation, so he accepted a position in a general merchandise store. When a country school was established near his uncle's place April 1, 1879, he resigned and attended school, which held only a three months' term, as was customary. In September, 1879, Mr. Mundil's father (Joseph), and sister (Frances), followed him from Bohemia. The elder Mundil bought eighty acres, where the son experienced the usual beginners' problems. In November, 1882, he married Miss Frances Mundil. In 1885 he was elected Precinct Assessor and served until 1889 when he moved to Clarkson. The town, not yet three years old, was situated five miles from his farm. He engaged in

Jos. M. Mundil

farm loan, insurance and real estate business and in 1890 was appointed postmaster, under President Harrison, from which office he resigned in 1897. With his sons, Fred F. and Joseph Jr., Mr. Mundil is active in the interests of the Folda banks. He is vice-president of the Clarkson State Bank and the Farmers & Merchants Bank in Linwood; Fred F. Mundil is cashier of the latter, and Joseph Jr. is assistant cashier of the Clarkson State Bank. Mr. Mundil's father died in 1905 at the age of 79. Mrs. Mundil's father at about that age, both in Clarkson, where they are buried. His sister Frances married Chas. Svoboda in 1882. Mr. Svoboda died in Wilson, Kansas, in 1919 and his widow lives with her daughters in Wilson, Kansas, and Yukon, Oklahoma.

Anton Dušátko is another pioneer of Colfax County, living now in Clarkson. With his brother, Václav, and parents he came to Butler County in 1874, followed by another brother, John, six months later,

Václav Anton John
Dušátko brothers

and all began to help the parents on the farm two and a half miles from Abie. Anton Dušátko was born in 1861. In 1886 he engaged in the lumber and grain business in Schuyler, later in Linwood, where he married Anna Mareš. In 1889 he moved to Snyder and in 1890, as a member of the firm Vlna, Dušátko & Pavlík, he helped build a mill in Verdigre, Knox County. In 1891 he moved to Clarkson, where for twenty-nine years he was engaged in the grain and lumber business, and where he and his wife are living.

John Dušátko was born in 1859. In 1885 he married Rosalie Johanes. In 1903 he sold his farm near Abie and bought 320 acres

a mile north of Brainard, on which his sons now live. Mr. and Mrs. Dušátko live in Brainard.

Václav Dušátko was born in 1864 and in 1886 married Helen Johanes. He farmed the old homestead (taken by the father) until 1902, when he sold it and bought a farm near Brainard. His son, Emil, now farms it and Mr. and Mrs. Dušátko live in Brainard.

Čenék, the fourth brother, born in 1871, died October 11, 1882, from injury received by a horse while herding cattle. He is buried near Abie. All these brothers were born in Štrampouch near Čáslav.

John Chleboun was born in 1844 in Budislava near Litomyšle. He came to Chicago in 1864, having travelled in a sailing vessel. Three weeks later he went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and in 1868 to Nebraska City, where in 1870 he married Anna Plaček. They repaired to Saunders County, taking a homestead twenty miles northwest of Wahoo, then the only town in the county. They lived in a sod house seven years. In 1892 they moved to Clarkson, where both are living.

Joseph Filipi, born in 1863 in Telecí, near Polička, is another pioneer of Clarkson.

John Musil was born in Fryšava, Moravia, in 1873 and came with family direct to Colfax County, taking an 80-acre homestead in Sec. 19, T. 20, R. 3. He died in 1891, his wife, Anna, in 1912, both buried in Sion cemetery. His son, Frank, lives in Clarkson and the daughter, Mary (Mrs. Anton Hamerník), nearby. Both are reaping the benefits of their early toil and that of their parents.

John Kopietz was born in Frenštat, Moravia, in 1853. He came with his parents to Everett, Brown County, Kansas, in 1867, and in 1891 moved to Stanton County, Nebraska, where he bought a farm in Sec. 30, T. 21, R. 3. In 1915 he sold it and is living in Clarkson.

Rogers, first station east of Schuyler, has seventy-five inhabitants. The following Czechs live there: Anton and Frank Kracl, garage; Frank Dudek, cashier in the bank; Černý, agricultural implements, lumber and hardware; Victor Bureš, general merchandise; Albert Bobisud, dealer in poultry, cream and eggs, and Joseph Dvořák, shoemaker.

Richland, west of Schuyler, has 125 inhabitants. The Czechs are: Families of John Stibal, George Shonka and Mr. Holub.

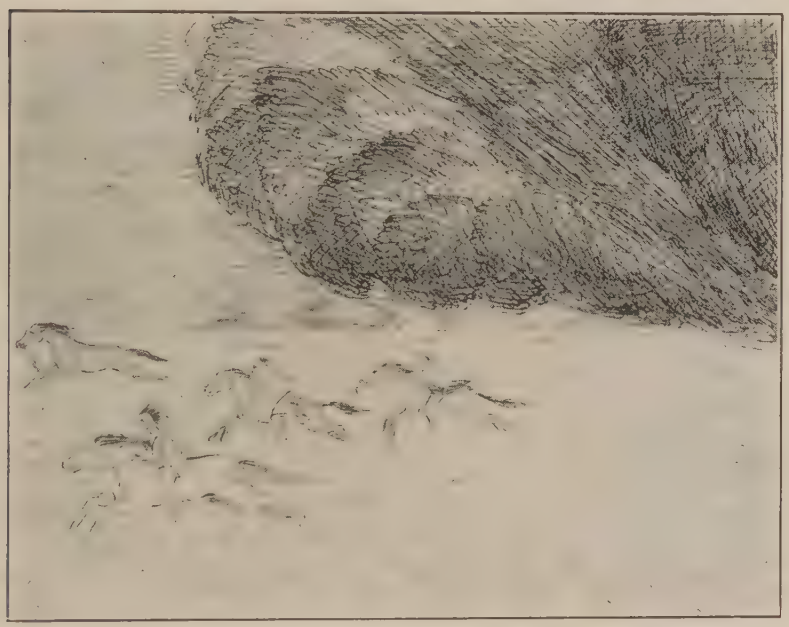
Czechs in Colfax County live all over it, most heavily in and around Schuyler, Clarkson, Leigh and Howell (commonly called Howells).

Tábor, Wilson, Dry Creek and Heun are country church settlements, not postoffices or towns.

As far as is known, there are on record three instances of Czechs perishing by prairie fires in Nebraska and one of these tragedies occured in Colfax County. Joseph Křenek, a pioneer still living, describes the catastrophe thus:

"My father and mother (Martin and Rosalie Křenek), my father's sister, my two sisters and I came to Nebraska

in 1872, from our old home in Kardašova Řečice, County Veselý, Bohemia. Father and I each bought 80 acres of railroad land, at $5.00 per acre, ten years' time to pay at six percent interest. This land was situated nine miles north east of Schuyler. The family of Frank Polák came with us, from the same town. Besides his wife, Marie, there were two small children and Mr. Polák's parents. They bought land on the same terms and were our neighbors.



A prairie fire

On October 14, 1878, when I had been married two years, a fierce prairie fire raged. Mr. Beneš (I have forgotten his first name), who lived a mile west of us, set fire to the grass around his home at the close of day, after the wind had subsided. However, it arose again, swept the fire over the plowed fire-break and the flames passed beyond control. Driven by a southwest wind, the fire fairly flew directly to the home of Mr. Polák, destroying all the buildings, a colt in the barn and the threshed grain. Mr. Polák was not at

home, and the few neighbors then living nearby also were absent. All were away earning a little money, and the women could do nothing to keep back the fire. Old Mr. Polák was herding cattle. Blinded by smoke, he sought refuge, but the flames leaped upon him not thirty feet away from the plowed strip, where he ran for safety. In vain! He perished and his wife, the grandmother, was badly burned. We had some grain in stacks. That year the crop was good, so we had four stacks left, all else was lost. Mr. Polák's family, however, was in dire straits. The fruits of a whole year's labor annihilated and a human life lost. The neighbors each donated a bushel or two. We were all poor in those days, but gave of our small means and hoped for better times. Mr. Polák built new buildings and set to work again. From 1873 to 1879 we suffered much from grasshoppers. However, we toiled hard and kept up our courage and now, when we have comfort and plenty, the past seems like a bad dream."

Frank Čejda, now living in West Point, writes thus of pioneer days in Colfax County:

"In 1867 I came with my parents to Wisconsin from Bohemia and from Wisconsin to West Point in 1870, by wagon from Fremont. During the two years we lived there, father managed to make a living by working for the homesteaders and sawing wood for fuel in the town. In May, 1872, he took a homestead in Colfax County, one and a half miles from the present townsite of Howell. The entry fee was $14.00, but all the money we could scrape together was $12.00. That was all we paid. How the difference of $2.00 was made up I do not know, but I suspect E. K. Valentine, at the time Registrar of the U. S. Land Office in West Point, a kindly man, paid it, father having worked for him.

We now had the claim, an old wagon, an ox and a dugout on the claim. How to move with one ox? Father was acquainted with Frank Herold of West Point and in conversation discovered that he too had one ox, which he lent to father, not only for moving, but also for breaking ten acres. We loaded the wagon with clothing, bedding (furniture was

unknown to us), an old stove and cooking utensils, and prepared to traverse the twenty-four miles we had to go. There being no bridges, travelling was hard and the old ox (the other was young) mired in a creek so badly that we had to ask help to pull him out. Finally we reached our new home and were soon settled, for aside from the beds and stove, there was no furniture to place about. There were no barns or sheds and the old wagon was the only farm implement, except the breaking plow that we borrowed to use that season.

We broke ten acres and planted them to corn and potatoes. Our nearest neighbor was Joseph Kovář, two miles southeast and the next nearest Peter Shad, three miles in the same direction. To the north we had no neighbors for fifteen miles or more until the Elkhorn river was reached. Thus we were the farthest located of the first homesteaders in northern Colfax County. As the eldest of three children, I farmed during the next three years, for father was away earning enough to supply us with groceries and flour. Work was scarce and wages low. It required three years' labor to put enough land under cultivation from which to make our living.

Frank Čejda

During our first summer there, several thousand Indians passed by, going to battle with other tribes or hunting buffalo and they camped at night within half a mile of our dug-out. They asked for food. We had nothing but hard bread, which mother gladly gave them, she was so frightened. Our bread being gone and there being no flour or provisions, and father away in West Point at work, we had nothing to eat. Father did not come for a week and in the meantime we subsisted on wild spinach leaves, which we cooked and ate. So I may say that we lived a week on weeds. When father came, he brought flour and groceries.

Many times during our pioneer days did we have to ration our food, when provisions began to run low. During the first two years barley coffee and corn mush, cooked in water, was our menu, for we had no cow to give us milk. Meat was scarce and wild game also, because there was nothing for it to feed on. When crops began to be raised, grouse, prairie chicken, deer and elk came. They disappeared later, when the country began to be more thickly settled.

Many years after I realized how frightened mother must have been when the Indians asked for bread that time. One day, when thinking about it, it dawned on me, for I recalled that a young Indian boy had asked me why she changed color and became so white. I had not noticed it, but he had. As soon as she could get away, she ran to the neighbor's, but there too only the woman was at home. After our first year or two, wild game provided us with meat and hunting became a delight. I had an old muzzle loading gun that we had traded for ten bushels of 15-cent corn. One can imagine what a 'beauty' it was, but I prized it highly. One day, walking through a draw where the grass grew high, I came upon a deer lying down, but I did not see him until he had jumped up, frightening me so that I had no strength to raise the gun until he was two hundred yards away from me, out of shot. Although I have seen as many as twenty-five deer at one time, I never bagged one. Others had better luck. For instance, the Novotný brothers in one winter killed sixty.

In the spring of 1873 we had the ten acres, broken the spring before, prepared for seeding wheat, but no money to buy it. Father set out for the Tábor settlement, five miles south, to see if he could borrow the seed wheat until he could raise some. It happened that on that day there was a wedding at Tom Šindelář's place and Tom at once filled a sack of wheat, saying, 'Here, I donate that to you,' and the others present followed suit, each one there giving him a sackful. Never was anyone happier than my father, and I myself can never forget their kindness and am grate-

ful for it. The Czech settlement known as Tábor was established in 1870. At the time we located in Colfax County, they had already raised crops there and had horses, something not known in our vicinity. Later they built a church and a dance hall. Up to 1874 there was no church within twenty miles of us, so we had to attend the St. Charles church near West Point until that year. Then a church was built in Olean, four miles west of us.

There was no school within many miles until 1876, something I missed very much. I had attended school for some time in Wisconsin and then for two years in West Point, reaching what perhaps now would be the third or fourth grade, but from the time we settled on our claim to 1876, I saw no book and scarcely a newspaper. I had forgotten the letters of the alphabet. When the school was

A Nebraska town in its beginnings

built, two miles from us, I began to attend as a beginner, and continued until I was twenty-one, but never more than three months in the year, in the winter, for I had to run the farm.

During the first few years there were no social gatherings except on rare occasions, for there was no gathering-place and no refreshments to offer. A wedding now and then was the only jollification. My first vacation from farm work in three years was to participate in a Fourth of July celebration in West Point, in 1875. I was obliged to walk the whole distance (24 miles), but was glad to do it.

Prices for farm products were very low. In 1874 we got $1.80 for 100 lbs. dressed hogs and we had to haul them twenty-four miles to market. In 1874 we bought our first cow. Unfortunately we soon lost her. She fell head-first into a cave on Joseph Pimper's place and a year elapsed before we could buy another, so that we lived three years without milk. And yet in those days no one thought we were undernourished because we had no milk, for many others were in the same condition.

It was not until 1877 or 1878 when we bought our first team of horses by trading for them a yoke of oxen and giving a mortgage of $150.00 on the team. The neighbors told us if we did not pay the mortgage when it fell due, we would lose our horses, and we believed them. We had just finished threshing grain, so father began to haul it to market, to be able to pay the mortgage within a week. For six consecutive days he hauled wheat to market 24 miles each day, starting with a load at four in the morning and returning at ten in the evening. It was a strain on him, but a greater one on the horses, for toward the last they would fall asleep as soon as they stood still.

Winters were most dreaded, for we had to provide shelter for ourselves and the animals too. For fuel we had to depend on sunflowers, cornstalks, weeds and straw. One winter there was much snow. Our cattle-shed was built in the side of a hill. It was so covered we could not gain entrance. As fast as we dug the snow away, the wind would blow the drifts back. So we decided to dig a hole through the top of the covering of the shed. As this was of straw, we soon accomplished it and I was let down. Then father got a basket filled with hay and lowered it down by a rope, and I fed the animals. Snow also completely filled our open dug well one winter and we were without water until it was hauled out.

In summer snakes invaded our dug-out. I remember when one of them got into a neighbor's bed. One of the boys cried incessantly. When his parents began to investigate and threw the covers back, they found the reptile, which

A Czech farm in Nebraska

had bitten the child. This boy was the son of George Nagomgast.

When one travelled over the prairies by night, one was never sure of reaching his destination, for there were no roads or anything else to guide him, unless it was a starlit night, or the horses knew the way. One dark night I lost my way, so I unhitched the team, straddled one of the horses, trusting to his common sense and we all reached home, leaving the wagon behind. There were some provisions in it and as a light rain came on, my parents did not like to have them spoiled. I knew the way had been short and felt I could surely retrace my steps, but we could not find it. The next morning I discovered the wagon in an opposite direction. Had it not been for the natural instinct of the animals which led them home, I would have been obliged to camp out or wander over the prairies. Had I not stopped and unhitched where I did (on top of a hill) we would have rolled down, wrecked the wagon and perhaps been killed.

When we went to town with products or for provisions, it required a day and a half, that is half the night, and our food supply, while on the way, was a piece of bread and some hay for the horses. If we were obliged to stay in town over night, we looked up some acquaintance or friend for lodging, for we did not have the means to stop in the hotel. During the first two years there was so little food that we could not supply our needs. I recall an incident in connection with our neighbor, Mrs. Kopáč. Her husband, like other homesteaders, was away working in town, to buy supplies for his family. It was in the fall of the year, her provisions were gone, nothing was available but the melon-patch. The poor woman lived on it during the whole melon season. She had a small baby to take care of, and grew so weak she could scarcely walk. She knew that all her neighbors were short of rations, so she did not even let them know of her condition, hoping for the arrival of her husband.

In summer we all went barefoot. In winter men and boys wore boots with rags wrapped about their feet, in place

of socks. The women and girls managed to knit stockings for themselves and later made them for the male folk. When the men were out driving on cold days, or afoot too, they wrapped gunny sacks over their boots, to keep from freezing. For light at night we used old-fashioned tape soaked in a plate of grease, or an oil lamp, if we happened to have oil. However, we seldom had light for illuminating purposes. It was early to bed and early to rise, very little artificial light was wasted on us.

Finally those who had put in three or four years on claims began to get some income, so that a dollar or two could be spared for social purposes. Granaries and barns began to appear and these, whether the owner wished it or not, had to be dedicated. The boys and girls knew as soon as one of these buildings was going up that something would be doing and spruced up for the occasion. Dancing of course was the chief attraction, and my, how we did go to it! You know, a Czech would rather dance than eat, especially if there are any liquid refreshments. As soon as the accordion player struck the first note, the festivities were on and kept on until day-break. If by chance the musician wore out, there were plenty of others to take his place. Those were happy days for young and old. As time advanced, more room and more means provided other social functions. At all these gatherings and entertainments which I attended, from the first to the last, I have never known of a quarrel or disturbance to mar the harmony. The assembled company always included singing in the programme and closed with the Bohemian national hymn, 'Where is my home?'

The redeeming feature of those hard times was the mutual helpfulness and sympathy evinced by those homesteaders for each other. It mattered not what their nationality or religion, a common need made brothers of all and sisters of the women. They were all like one family. If one was in need or trouble, the others even sacrificed to help.

In 1886, just fourteen years after we made entry and moved on our claim, the Northwestern Railroad built its

branch from Scribner by way of Albion to Oakdale, connecting there with its main line. It cut across my land and the town of Howell was laid out a mile and a half east of my farm. By this time father owned a 320 acre farm and I had one of 160 acres. Compared with others, we were quite well off and living on a much different scale than in our homestead days, although not flying sky-high as many have done during the recent war period and then falling flat. We learned by hard work and stinting to preserve what we had, so that now we can ride in an auto which is not encumbered with a mortgage. We have helped to build schools and churches and bring transportation close to home, so that our children need not go through the hardship we endured, and they may enjoy the advantages we were in such sore need of but could not have. We are glad now that we were pioneers in all this. I have sold my farm and retired to West Point, where I once lived and where I expect to spend the remainder of my life."

Dodge County – 1868

Czechs in this county live in and around the towns of Dodge and North Bend, but the territory is quite large, for some of those who live in Cuming and Colfax counties receive mail in Dodge. The settling of Cuming County paved the way for that in Dodge County. In fact, many of those who came first to the former moved to the latter and the records are not always clear.

It is recorded that Joseph Roubínek, Frank Špindler and his stepson Václav Vlach, Václav Dostál and his father-in-law Václav Návara, with families, were the first to come. They came from Iowa, by ox-teams, in the fall of 1868, and immediately took homesteads, which they began cultivating the following spring. They spent the winter with a German settler named Scheit, on the Elkhorn river. Roubínek later owned and operated the Water Lily mill between Snyder and Scribner, where many Czech immigrants found hospitality and assistance, for it was a sort of community center for them. Špindler was a tinsmith and practiced his

trade on his farm. According to old-timers, his farm, in the early eighties, was the best that side of Fremont, well kept, with a beautiful wood lot and garden. He had brought trees from the Missouri river and planted them in a fine grove. All of those just mentioned took claims a mile and a half north of Dodge.

1868—The Following Came:

Joseph Roubínek, Sr., born March 19, 1842, in Bělá near Luže. He came to Iowa City, Iowa, in 1866 and that year was married to Mary Sedlák, who had followed him to this country. At time of writing he is living with his daughter, Mrs. Wm. Brodhun, in Omaha.

Joseph Roubínek Sr.

Frank Špindler, born in 1838 in Bělá, near Luže. He came to this country in 1866 with his wife (born Roubínek) and stepson Václav Vlach. For two years he worked in Tama City, Iowa, then came to Dodge County. Died in 1913.

Václav Vlach, born June 15, 1852, in Bělá near Luže, died June 17, 1922. A very prominent and popular man. Although he was a strong Liberal, so broad-minded was he that his funeral was the largest known, attended by his countrymen of all creeds and opinions.

Václav Dostál, born in 1839 in Bělá near Luže. He came to Quebec, Canada, in 1867, with his wife and her parents, Václav Návara and wife, in a sailing vessel, the voyage requiring many weeks. They encountered not only bad storms, but famine and filth, which resulted in a smallpox epidemic. From Quebec they made their way to Wisconsin, Roubínek and Špindler in the meantime searching for their address. When they got word of them, they had come to Iowa, but Mrs. Návara had died. They followed Roubínek, Špindler and Vlach to Iowa and all set out for Nebraska. Dostál died February 7, 1908.

John Uhlík, born in Čejtice near Písek, died Nov. 13, 1889.

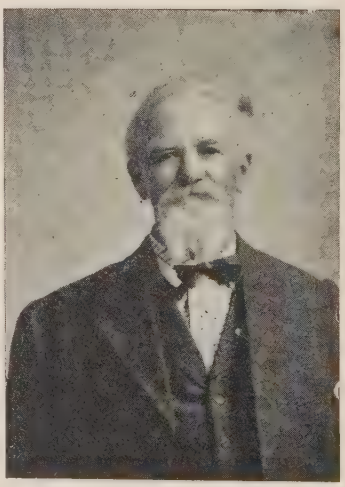
1869—The Following Came:

Frank Svoboda, born in 1834 in Skřivaně, near Rakovník. He came to Quebec with his wife in 1867, then to Chicago, then to Dodge County. Upon arrival he bought a team of oxen, but drove them to Omaha, to get a wagon. Prior to that he had used a summer sleigh, constructed by himself. This sort of vehicle was used by homesteaders in those days, before they were able to get wagons. It is recorded of him that he carried a sack of flour from West Point, a distance of eighteen miles, crossing the Elkhorn on the foot bridge. He built a sod house, but prairie fires had burned off the grass, so there was practically no roof. When it rained, the house was full of water. The year following he gathered enough slough grass to cover it. He and his wife used to walk to West Point with eggs and butter.

Paul Faltin, born in Chlistovice near Kutná Hora, died April 18, 1908. He came to this country with his family in 1866. Upon arriving in Nebraska, they first went to the Big Blue country (Saline County), but there were no bridges there, so they turned to Dodge County.

John Hemerka, born in 1842 in County of Chrudim.

Václav F. Kříž, born January 4, 1838, in Velké Kostomlaty, Nymburk, died October 1, 1924. He came to this country in 1867 with his wife, his son, Anton, having been born on the vessel that brought them over. They lived in Chicago two years, then came to Dodge County, where Kříž became prominent among his people. He helped to organize School Dis-



W. (Václav) F. Kříž

trict 45, serving on the school board a long time, was a founder of the Bohemian National Cemetery near Dodge and active in civic and lodge life.

John Lhoták. He came to this country in 1864, with his son John, both taking claims later in Dodge County. The rest of the family followed them. The son died January 4, 1921.

Frank Klikoš, born in 1841 in Poříčany. Like other pioneers, he and his family lived at first in a dug-out, Indians stealing their fuel. The first year they had no cow or team and Klikoš did not know how to farm in the American way. He went afoot to Omaha, where he worked for the Burlington & Missouri Railroad. Having saved twenty dollars that way in five weeks, he returned home with his treasure. During his absence a blizzard occurred. His wife was alone during the three days that it raged and was badly frozen. She thought the cow must have perished, but fortunately this had not happened. On the third day, when the storm had abated, she crept to the nearest neighbor, V. F. Kříž, for aid. The following year Klikoš paid with work for the breaking up of his sod, working three days from dawn to twilight for breaking one acre.

Joseph Hrouda, born Nov. 25, 1831, in Dlouhé Zboží, Poděbrady. He came to this country in 1868. With Kříž and Klikoš he took adjoining homesteads at about the same time.

Joseph Walter, died in 1893. He helped organize School District 46, where his son taught in 1883.

Joseph Hanzl

Joseph Walter, Jr., took the claim adjoining his father's and his homestead is now a part of the Village of Dodge, north of Blue Pole Highway, which runs through the center of town east and west. The eighty south of the highway was originally the homestead of Ernest Busch.

Joseph Hanzl, born in Malotice, Čáslav. With the help of

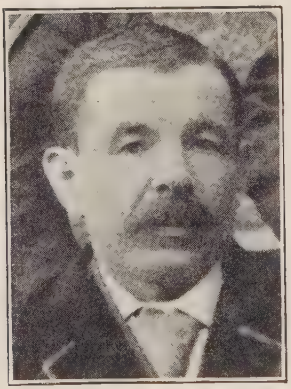
John Rosický Hanzl founded a Bohemian mutual insurance society against hail and other devastation of crops, as mentioned in the chapter on organizations. His brother Frank, born December 31, 1849, in Malotice, took a claim in 1869 in Cuming County, later living in Dodge.

Mrs. Herman Mestl and Mrs. Marketa Miller, sisters, born Pojar, came with their husbands in 1869. They were born in Strejkovice. Mrs. Mestl died in October, 1908.

The Following Came in 1870 or Prior Thereto, Definite Date Not Known:

Frank Pospíšil; John Novák; Václav Heřman, born October 14, 1833, in Česká Třebová; Frank Schmeiser; Fr. Smola; Mr. Bednášek; F. D. Janeček, born December, 1852, in County of Tábor; Em. Hubenka, Sr., born December 25, 1853, in Velké Hlasivo, near Vožice; Joseph Nebuda; Štědrý; Joseph Brázda, born February 17, 1849, in Vlašim; Hampl; V. Krajíček; J. Musil; Fr. Mareš; John Vlna; Fr. V. Korna, born in Štěpánova Lhota; Joseph Havel, came from Illinois; Joseph Mayer; John Březina, born in Vlašim, County Tábor. In 1869 he owned eleven eighties, hauling lumber from Omaha for building. Joseph Severin; Joseph Pernt, born in 1824 in Starkoč near Tábor, came to Nebraska in 1867.

Frank Bartoš (Bartosh) came in 1870. He was born in Litoměřice, April 7, 1845, and in 1857, with his parents, emigrated to Two Rivers, Wisconsin. In 1866 he married Christina Legro and came to Nebraska in the spring of 1870, with his brothers Anton and Václav, all taking homesteads in Sec. 4, T. 20 N, R. 5 E. In May his wife and son Wencl joined him in West Point. In 1871 they moved to their claim. During grasshopper time he went to California, to work, remaining there two years. Upon his return he bought eighty acres south of Dodge, selling it later and buying the place now owned by his son Frank. He was one of the organizers of School District 46, a member of the school board for many years, even after the school was transferred to Dodge. Also a charter member of the Bohemian National Cemetery Asso-



Fr. Bartosh

ciation, a county supervisor for one term, justice of the peace for seventeen years. He died September 17, 1904, his wife March 1, 1919, both buried in the above mentioned cemetery. He and his brother Anton were in somewhat better circumstances and spoke English, so they were able to help new comers in locating claims, etc.

Anton Bartoš, his brother, was born in Litoměřice February 10, 1851. He also went to California in 1876, and to Seattle, Washington, to work, during the grasshopper scourge. In 1883 he donated two and a half acres for the Bohemian National Cemetery and was one of the charter members. He was a country postmaster from 1882 until the Village of Dodge was founded in 1886 and held that office two years longer. He was a member of the County Board of Supervisors and of School District Board 46. In 1906 he moved to North Dakota, in 1920 to Los Angeles, where he now resides. He is father of fifteen children, ten of whom are living.

Frank Tichota, born in 1847 in Elhovice near Švihov. He came to St. Louis in 1869, then to Herman Mestl in Dodge County, in whose sod-house, 10x12, three other emigrant families were already crowding together. This was a general custom, for shelter was scarce. Tichota was a blacksmith by trade, so helpful to others. He ordered a forge and bellows from St. Louis, which a kindly American neighbor was glad to bring by wagon from Fremont. The first piece of work he did was to make a hoe, with which to cut sod for the house. An old plowshare served for material. He was the only blacksmith between West Point and Fremont and had plenty to do, working day and night, for people came from far and near. He died January 20, 1904.

1871—The Following Came:

Vincenc Studnička, born in Řendějov in 1843. He came to Wisconsin in 1871, then to Dodge County, where he pre-empted for $250.00 and $15.00 taxes, near the town of Dodge.

Frank Chudomelka, born October 19, 1819, in Třebějice near Soběslav. He came with his wife direct to Dodge County. Died September 8, 1906.

Ignác Vlasák. No other record.

1872—The Following Came:

Thomas Frček, born October 22, 1834, in Prachatice. He came to this country in 1868, to Winona, Minnesota, then to Dubuque, Iowa, then to North Platte, Nebraska, where he worked on the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1870 he came to Omaha, then worked for the railroads and then moved to Dodge County.

Joseph Kavan, born in Zderuce, Prachatice. He came to this country with Thomas Frček. Died in 1892.

1874—The Following Came:

Václav Lichtenberg, born in 1822 in Štěpánov, County Tábor. He died in West Virginia. Came with his son, Joseph, who had come to this country in 1870. He bought railroad land.

Václav Kučera, born December 24, 1849, in Lhota Štěpánova, County Vlašim. Came with his wife on Joseph Kavan's invitation and bought railroad land.

Frank Vodvářka, born September 29, 1827, in Čistá, Plzeň. Died September 1, 1909.

Frank Bělina (born Oct. 10, 1842, in Drahobudice, Čáslav,) and Frank Kárník (born in 1842 in Zruč, Čáslav) came in 1880.

John Studnička came in 1882.

Charles Brázda came in 1884. He was born November 2, 1869, in Racine, Wisconsin. With his father and stepmother he lived on a farm until November 27, 1894, when he married Christina, daughter of Frank Bartoš. In 1899 he moved to Dodge, where he engaged in the photographing business, in which he continues at date of writing. He was for many years a member of the Village Board, for twenty years a member of the Board of Education, president thereof for more than fifteen years. During his time the school in Dodge was placed on the accredited list as Class A and a fine new building erected in 1912-1913. Although now not a member, he always has an interest in the educational system. His two sons, Daniel S. and Adolph W., both graduated from the University of Nebraska. Daniel is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, College of Medicine, and Adolph is a student at Emory University,

Chas. Brázda

College of Medicine, in Atlanta, Georgia. Daniel is now a member of the staff of a Pennsylvania state hospital.

Vincenc Jakl came in 1885. He was born February 21, 1837, in Horky.

Old Settlers, the Date of Whose Coming is Not Recorded, Are:

Václav Luxa, born Sept. 21, 1839, in Černější Tábor; Alois Pospíšil, born Feb. 9, 1849, in Tuchotice, Čáslav; Frank Srb, born Dec. 2, 1833, in Opatovice, Čáslav. He was the first miller. Joseph Srb, born April 28, 1859; Henry (Jindřich) Studnička, born July 13, 1861; J. Vlasák, born Aug. 19, 1849, in Rapošov, Čáslav.

John Studnička came in 1882. He was born May 12, 1826, in Mokrá Lhota near Benešov and became a miller. In 1882 with his wife and two children he came to this country, to West Point, and shortly thereafter he bought a farm in Dodge County. He was drowned September 19, 1892, while fishing near Wisner.

Dodge is the home of Joseph Stecher, who as professional wrestler at one time held the world championship. His father, Frank, was born in Mitrov near Uhlířské Janovice, in 1863, and came to Cuming County in 1877.

The data for Dodge County have been furnished by Charles Brázda and J. A. Janeček of Dodge, and Rev. John St. Brož's history of his parish in Dodge County.

Douglas County – 1868

While it is not strictly correct to use the date 1868 chronologically for Douglas County, that is the year when V. L. Vodička, whose reminiscences furnished data, arrived. No doubt there was a number of Czechs who came prior to that date. For instance, L. A. Schlesinger and Joseph Horský, who had settled in Washington County, the first in 1857, the second in 1859, probably came to Omaha to trade and were the first Czechs to enter the town. Edward Rosewater, who came to Omaha in 1863, was the first person born in Bohemia to become a permanent settler, although he did not associate with Czechs in any other than a political way. The next, as far as we know, was Václav Tuček, who came in 1864 or 1865.

According to the census of 1920, there are in Omaha and South Omaha 4,305 persons born in Czechoslovakia,

and it is estimated that the number of those of native birth or immediate Czech descent is near 12,000. These, with the exception of a few small farmers in the vicinity, represent the entire Czech population in the county.

V. L. Vodička (of whom mention has been made in the introduction), came to Omaha March 6, 1868, and according to his recollection, the following were here at the time. Most of them had come from Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Joseph Nováček, who conducted a boarding house on 12th Street near Dodge, which building later was used by Josiah Redfield for his printing house.

Václav Sulek, died in Omaha.

John Hula and F. Horák, both returned to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

George Dvořák, who had come from St. Louis, Mo., in 1867 and whose son, Joseph, later became county clerk of Colfax County.

Eman Schlesinger, a carpenter, son of L. A. Schlesinger.

Václav Kučera, born in Makov near Litomyšle, 1847. He came to Omaha in 1868, in 1870 built a dance hall on Thirteenth Street, between Williams and Pierce, which later was converted into the first Bohemian Catholic church (St. Wenceslaus). In 1877 he built another on Leavenworth, between 13th and 14th, and later moved to Chicago.

Joseph Zima; Václav Kovář, a tinsmith. Returned to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Václav Štěpánek. In 1869 he built the first Czech dance hall on Thirteenth and William Street, where Prague Hotel now stands.

Frank and Joseph Mejstřík, brothers, who had been working as carpenters on railroad construction between Omaha and Cheyenne.

Joseph Tuček

Václav Tuček, born in Čáslav, 1837, came in 1864 or 1865. His son, Joseph, was the first Czech druggist. (Died Dec. 9, 1928.)

John Řezníček, father of John Reznichek, who now has a grocery and meat store at 2711 Leavenworth street, Omaha. The elder Řezníček was a cigar maker and came in 1868. He left for West Point, Nebraska, where he died.

The Marušák brothers, who took land in Butler County; Václav Bašus; Frank Boukal; Matěj Nerad; Frank Mareš, married Eleonora Vodička, V. L. Vodička's sister. Lived long in Crete, Nebr. Joseph W. Zerzan (detailed mention in history of Colfax County); John Šavlík; Anton Hájek; Thomas Killian,—(all three settled in Saunders County); Charles Jankele, moved to West Point, later died in Wisner; Joseph Kastl, settled in Saunders County; W. F. Kříž, Joseph Klikoš, Anton Jansa,—

(settled in Dodge County); John Dufek; Joseph Bureš; Frank Pospíšil, settled near West Point, died in Texas; F. Jílek, from Pittsburg, who later settled in Fremont and changed his name to Ellick; Anton Langer, Sr., a photographer, came in 1867, later to Florence, then to Cuming County. Died in West Point.

1869—The Following Came:

Pintner from Cleveland, Ohio, moved to Republic County, Kansas, where he died; Joseph Řezníček, a mason, from St. Louis, Mo.; Frank Koudele, moved soon to Wahoo, where he died; Frank Herold, a butcher, from Cleveland, settled in West Point; Matěj K. Zirhut, born in Bezděkov near Klatovy. Came first to Mexico, with the Austrian Archduke Maxmilian, who was executed by the Mexicans, when he tried to impose himself as their Emperor. Zirhut moved to Crete, later to New Mexico, died in Albuquerque, N. Mex., in 1898. Ferdinand Vondrejs, moved to Saline County; the parents of Joseph F. Kavan, who settled in Saunders County; Joseph Papež, now living in Albion, Nebr.; John Stibal, now living in Richland, Nebr.; Martin and John Svačina, brothers, born in Zahořany near Domažlice, came from Wisconsin; John Konvalin; Frank Sojka; Joseph Novák; Václav Kavka; Thomas Kastner, died in Nebraska City; Joseph Kavka, who accidentally killed himself while helping by shooting to celebrate the founding of the Bohemian Slovanian Benevolent Society State Grand Lodge; Václav Fiala, a tailor; Frank Vrba; Václav Čuda, who settled in Saunders County; Sucha; Bednář, a brewer, who worked in the Bemis Brewery; Anton and John Špilinek, brothers. Anton settled in Howard County. John, in a fit of insanity, shot himself and wife in Omaha. Matěj Němec, a tailor; Němec, a blacksmith; the Křepela brothers; Mršný; Ondřej Matouš, a carpenter, later moved to Plattsmouth, where he is living.

Frank Vodička and wife

During the first half of the seventies Omaha was truly a gate city for Czechs as well as others. Our people tarried just long enough to find out where they wanted to locate, or to earn the money necessary for payment on land. Consequently for several years the population, to a large extent, was transient.

Some of the First Czech Business Men in Omaha Were:

Zerzan & Dvořák, who conducted a grocery store in 1869.
Štěpánek's dance hall at Thirteenth & William street, built in 1869,

View of Thirteenth street, Omaha, north of William, Czech business district

Joseph Nováček's boarding house, 1869.

In 1871 Charles Jankele bought Štěpánek's hall, later selling it to Václav Kučera. Kučera then built another (which later was remodeled into a church) and sold the old one to George Hoffman.

M. Zirhut had a saloon and boarding house on Thirteenth near Leavenworth street.

In 1877 there were living in Omaha less than a hundred Bohemian families. A large proportion of the men were employed in the smelting works, but few were in business. Václav Kučera conducted a dance hall, saloon and summer garden on Leavenworth, near Fourteenth street. A Bohemian Jew, Isaac Levy, had a grocery and later a general merchandise store on South Thirteenth, near Leavenworth, and a saloon in the adjoining building.

Frank Pivonka, later one of the first Czech inhabitants of South Omaha, had a saloon on Seventh and Jones street.

Martin Jansa, who moved later to Saunders County, had a grocery store near Kučera's Hall.

In 1876 John Svačina built a dance hall, which was destroyed by fire. Later it was rebuilt and called Metz Hall, now Catholic Sokol Home located at 1245 So. Thirteenth Street. About the time he built the hall, his brother, Martin, established a grocery across the street and then engaged in dry-goods business, which later was conducted by his daughter, Mary, now Mrs. Joseph Bárta, after Svačina left for the west. In 1925 he returned to Omaha, where he is still living.

Joseph and Mary (Rosický) Michal

In the late seventies Václav Hnízdil moved in from Blair and bought the Davenport House, on Farnam near Ninth. Later he bought the corner on Thirteenth and Harney, where he conducted a boarding house and saloon. Afterward he took up his trade of baker. Died a few years ago.

About that time John W. Honza, a Civil War veteran, came from Iowa City, Iowa, and established a boarding house.

The first baker was Frank Kubovec, who built an oven under the front part of the old Svačina Hall, afterward building a regular bakery at about 1264 South Thirteenth street. Later he moved to Cleveland, Ohio.

The first Bohemian meat shop was that of Anton Pokorný, corner of Thirteenth and Jones streets. Pokorný now lives in Oklahoma.

Joseph Palík established the first hotel at 1109-1111 South Thirteenth street.

The Czech settlement in Omaha of those days for a long time was situated in the vicinity bounded by Tenth Street

on the east, Sixteenth on the west, Pierce on the north and Center on the South, and was known as "Praha" (Prague) in Czech and "Bohemian Town" in English. During the boom of the eighties Omaha prospered and many new people came. Czechs have always been industrious and frugal, for those in this country were, with small exceptions, poor immigrants, with nothing but their bare hands for first capital. Some settled along the river bottoms, or "squatted" there. As their numbers grew, they settled in Sheeley, where they were later replaced by Polish people. The district known as Brno (named for the capital city of Moravia), lying between Tenth and Thirteenth street south of Riverview Park, is almost entirely settled by Czechs. As the city grew and prospered, they prospered also, so that at this date many occupy fine homes and are found in all walks of business and professional life. They no longer live exclusively in certain localities, but all over the city, many having beautiful residences.

Fred C. Mejstřík

In the early days quite a number worked in the smelter. They have been supplanted by other nationalities, but there is still a goodly number of them working in the packing plants of South Omaha and a large settlement lives there, with its proportionate number of business and professional men. Frank Pivoňka was the first Czech to settle there. He was born January 19, 1840, and built the Pivonka Block.

Fred Mejstřík (Maystrick) who lived in Omaha since he was a boy of ten, gave the following account of his pioneer days:

"My parents took a claim near North Bend in 1868, but never proved on it and lost it. Early in May, 1870, they bought twenty-four acres south of Gibson (Omaha), at which time there was no railroad there. In the spring of

1872 they went to Cleveland, Ohio, crossing the Missouri river over the new railroad bridge. When we arrived in Omaha, we came over by ferry.

During our first winter in Gibson the Indians killed sixty deer between that place and Bellevue. My oldest brother Joseph and my father killed a deer with a set of oars. They were in a boat, fishing on the Missouri, when they beheld a deer swimming over from the Iowa side. Not having weapons, they beat him to death with their oars. The Indians used to stop at our home almost every day during the winter, to get warm. They were half naked and I, as a boy, used to marvel how they could stand the cold as well as they did. They camped near a lake called Hard Wood Lake, two miles south of Gibson.

Once when my brother Anton and I came home after selling fish, five Indians followed us. One was about eighteen years old and could speak fairly good English. We entered into conversation. About two weeks before that the train had killed our neighbor's cow and they buried it next to the railroad tracks. Anton told the Indian about it and he asked to be shown the place. After uncovering the animal, we asked the Indian what he thought of it, and he said he thought the hind quarters were all right!

These Indians used to come down the Missouri River in the fall in boats made by hollowing out tree trunks. It was surprising to note how well they could handle them without capsizing. Indian families came with horses having poles tied to their sides, and leather tied crosswise, thus forming sacks for papooses and luggage. In those days they had no wagons. They dressed in true Indian fashion, buckskin, fringed leggings, beads and moccasins, and as I said before, the way they withstood the cold was astonishing. I have seen them walk on ice which was covered with four inches of water, wading in it to spear muskrats through their houses.

My people used to put up cord wood pulled from the Missouri River and sold it to steamboats. In the spring of the year the sandbars were covered with ducks and geese,

which came by the thousands. Wild turkeys also were plentiful in those days.

In 1870 the main business section of Omaha extended from the depot on Ninth Street to Farnam, then along Farnam to Fourteenth Street. I walked to school from Gibson to where St. Joseph's Hospital stands. The following spring one of the pupils, Charles Snell, married our teacher. At that time there was no South Tenth Street, merely a wagon road, and the only house in the district was owned by C. F. Goodman, the wholesale druggist, located at Ninth and Francis streets. It was from his home that the school children obtained drinking water.

We left for Cleveland, Ohio, in 1872, but in 1876 my brothers, Frank and Anton, returned. My father died April 6, 1879, in Cleveland, and I came to Omaha in August of that year. The following winter I chopped wood for Fred Drexel, at 75 cents per cord. That was on about O and Q streets, between Thirteenth and Twentieth, in South Omaha, then of course all hills and valleys. We averaged about a cord a day, and in the spring I came out ahead with $5.35. From that time until 1883 I divided my time between Omaha and Cleveland. In 1883 I stayed at the Emmet House (on Eleventh between Farnam and Harney streets), where I fell in love with Mary Včela. We were married May 7, 1883, and have lived happily ever since, raising a family of three boys and three girls, all of whom reside in Omaha. My eldest daughter, Emily, became the wife of John G. Rosicky." (Mr. Mejstřík died January 11, 1928, aged 66 years.)

At time of writing this history, Joseph Tuček and Frank Vodička were the oldest living Czech pioneers of Omaha.

Knox County – 1869

Of the Czech pioneers in Nebraska, those in Knox County struggled with greatest difficulties. All the others had settled, in the early days, in central or southeastern

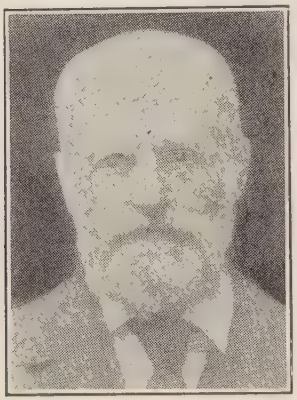
counties, already inhabited by whites, but Knox County was then on the edge of civilization. It was a bit of the old "wild west", with plenty of Indians, trappers, traders and now and then cowboys. The Ponca and Santee-Dakota Indians had massacred white settlers in Minnesota in 1862 and had been moved to Knox County in 1865. The Dakota-Sioux Indians had their reservation about 150 miles west, in what is generally known as the Rosebud Country. They were enemies of the former, upon whom they swooped at intervals.

Similar conditions were hard enough to bear by English-speaking settlers, native Americans, who naturally had more grit and self-assurance than new-comers from a foreign land, unable to speak the language. Our people paid not only the common toll in hard work and privation, but in human lives also. The murder of the two Brabenec children, and death by prairie fire, as recorded herein, are examples of what they had to undergo in addition to drouths, blizzards, grasshopper plagues and other catastrophes. Aside from that, the country did not have a railroad for many years, much longer than was the case in many other pioneer communities of eastern Nebraska.

Frank Janoušek

In 1868 a Czech colonization club "Česká Osada" (Czech Colony) was founded in Chicago. It had over 500 members there and branches in Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee and other cities. Its object was to find suitable locations for Czech immigrants. After a committee had investigated several locations in Kansas, Minnesota and northwestern Nebraska, Frank Bem and Frank Janoušek (born in Sadská, near Prague, Bohemia, 1812, died in Niobrara, 1886) reported favorably for the Niobrara Valley in what is now Knox County.

The first expedition of settlers, under the leadership of Bem and Janoušek, arrived in Niobrara in July, 1869. It consisted of Frank Nedvěd, Joseph Pechan and family, Carl Schindler, Daniel Čáp, Thaddeus Píšek (father of Mrs. John F. Lenger) and his nephew John, Alois Chládek, Cyril Jandus, Joseph Hrdlička, Frank Fejfar and daughter. They were not favorably impressed (with the exception of Schindler) and went to Dakota, near Yankton, then the territory capital. An engineer from there, Charles Meyers, had told them about lands in that part of the country. Bem stayed in Yankton, but Janoušek remained in Niobrara, as did Schindler. In October of that year a second expedition left Chicago, consisting of Joseph Šedivý (born in Nymburk, Nov. 28, 1825, died March 12, 1912, in Marmora, Va.) and family, John Holeček (Bobnice near Nymburk, 1826, died on his homestead near Niobrara Jan. 27, 1911) and family, Joseph Krupička (Libice, near Poděbrady) and family, Joseph Gregor and wife (Bohemian Germans), Frank Vampula and wife and Joseph Noll and wife.



Joseph Šedivý

They travelled by rail as far as Sioux City, then a town of 1.000 inhabitants, a terminal railroad point. Thence by wagon one hundred miles further to their destination. They had expected to go by boat, but the season was advanced and river transportation closed until spring. Joseph Šedivý, who had owned a grocery store in Chicago, was somewhat wealthier than the rest. He had enough money to buy a yoke of large oxen, a new Schuettler wagon, and a load of provisions. Noll and Vampula together had bought a new wagon in Chicago and a yoke of young oxen in Sioux City. Holeček and Gregor had worked in Chicago, where part of their wages had been held back, the former $90.00, and Gregor $70.00. They empowered a Czech lawyer, Frank Partl, to collect the money, but each

received for his share only $25.00, and that was all the capital they had to begin with. Holeček had also brought some provisions. After the necessary expenses had been paid, each had only $10.00 left. Václav Randa, who came later, was accounted the richest man in the colony. He possessed $400.00.

Their way lay over a barren, burned-over prairie, with no sign of habitation or living thing. Soup made from prairie chicken was the first native meal they enjoyed. They were led by Šedivý, Krupička acting as his driver. Both men had left their families in Sioux City, until a later time, and they arrived in Niobrara on Nov. 2, 1869. The women and Holeček's son, Joseph V. (of whom mention is made elsewhere), walked all the way, the men being occupied with the oxen.

A log cabin. Dug-outs, sod houses and log cabins were the first homes of Nebraska pioneers.

Niobrara at that time consisted of a log store belonging to Westerman & Bruns, traders; a frame house belonging to Tom N. Paxton; a house in which Janoušek was living, and a log cabin near the river, the home of C. G. Brenner and family,—beside about twenty Indian tepees. It was truly an Indian village, in name and in inhabitants.

This group of colonists suffered quite a loss. They had been advised by Janoušek and Bem to take along furniture and supplies, the country being devoid of settlements. Upon their arrival in Sioux City they had placed their household goods, clothing, provisions, etc., in storage with Charles and Tuttle. The day after Šedivý left with the expedition, a company of soldiers, recruits, bound for Fort Sully,

Dakota Territory, was quartered in the same warehouse. In a drunken state they broke into the boxes, stole and sold or destroyed the contents. Šedivý suffered a loss amounting to $246.50, the others a total of $239.00. The police was unable to cope with the situation and a lawsuit, instituted by Šedivý, was of no avail.

The two families that had been left behind followed on November 18, 1869, arriving in Yankton on November 21st. They lived there in an abandoned farm house, waiting for the river to freeze, so they could get across. On December 17, 1869, they arrived at their destination. Šedivý's entire fortune in cash at that time consisted of $5.00.

Václav Randa

The following spring (1870) brought another group, led by Václav Randa (born in Domažlice, Bohemia, March 15, 1843, died in an Omaha hospital in 1900, buried in Niobrara, a prominent politician and officeholder) and a Chicago lawyer named Frank Partl. They were accompanied by the families of Frank Tichý (born in Jankov, Votice), Frank Vokner (born in Chvalkovice near Čáslav, 1837), John Hájek, (born 1834, died 1924), John Schreier (born in Šípy near Kralovice, 1827), Thomas Brabenec, John Prášek, Matěj Hrbek (born in Podhoří, Milevsko), Joseph Tikalský (born in Hrdlořezy, near Třeboň), John Tikalský (born in Suchdol, near Třeboň in 1848) and others.

For Brabenec and his wife a tragedy was waiting, the murder of their two children. With the rest they had set out from Sioux City on March 25th, 1870, by oxen-drawn wagons. They did not know how to guide their teams in American fashion, so made slow progress and at last were obliged to leave the heavier load behind, taking only clothing, featherbeds and food. It began to rain and after two days' delay they started out against the advice of their

hosts, German farmers. Before they had gone any distance, the rain turned to snow, the oxen sank into the mire and could not proceed. What now? How best to spend the night under the open sky? The bread was frozen, so they cut or bit off morsels with great difficulty. The men ran about to keep warm, while the women and children crept under the featherbeds, to keep from freezing. So, on the open prairie, as in other instances in dug-outs, during blizzards, the good old Bohemian featherbed was a boon and salvation.

> Oh featherbed, what comfort you did always bring
> To those who from Bohemia conveyed you here.
> E'en lives you saved from the blizzard's deadly sting,
> And their hard bed eased for many a toilsome year.

As they proceeded, the weather became milder and finally they reached Niobrara. Brabenec, Hrbek and Prášek took adjoining claims, on the third bottom of the Niobrara River Valley. The men immediately began to fell cottonwoods and the first dug-out, for Brabenec, was finished by noon. Then they continued, hoping to make for the other two a shelter at least. Mrs. Brabenec, as was to be expected, baked bread the first thing. She was kneeling by the oven door, to see how it was coming on, when the entrance was darkened by several Sioux-Dakota Indians, the inveterate enemies of the Poncas. The frightened woman glanced up and one of the savages held out his hand with the word "How". She thrust it aside and uttered a Czech exclamation of disgust. The Indian, probably insulted, shot her in the thigh, but did not wound her seriously.

In the meantime, the men were busy in the grove nearby. They heard shots coming from the direction of Brabenec's claim and hurrying thither, found the wounded woman. Carrying her out, they resuscitated her and then searched for the children, fourteen-year-old Caroline and twelve-year-old Johnny. The boy was found shot to death in the tall grass, the girl they could not find. All three families, thoroughly alarmed, started for Niobrara. When they had gone about half way, they were confronted by Ponca Indians, who assured them of protection, so they took refuge

in Carl Schindler's home. After several days they repaired to the place where the tragedy had occurred. As they approached the Brabenec claim, a dreadful odor met them from the wild choke-cherry thicket and bushes. It came from the decaying body of Caroline. Mr. and Mrs. Brabenec had no other children and after a very few years they returned to Bohemia, to try to forget their sorrow amid other scenes.

As far as has been recorded, this is the only instance of Czechs being killed by Indians in Nebraska. For several years, until 1879, the settlers were in constant fear of the redmen. In April, 1871, they were invited to assemble for a neighborly council in Carl Schindler's home, for the purpose of planning how best to stop their depredations. They decided to build a log fort and asked the commander of Fort Randall to place soldiers in it, which he did, giving them fifteen men for protection.

In those days Indian graves, placed high up in the trees, were a common sight. The bodies, encased in wrappings of skin, were fastened amid the branches and left there to the elements. They all vanished in succeeding prairie fires, so dreaded by pioneers. In 1879 two Czech lives were thus sacrificed. Mrs. Marie Dvořák, fifty years old, and her fourteen-year-old son perished in the flames.

J. V. Holeček

The foregoing has been taken from Jos. V. Holeček's account of the settling of Knox County by Czechs, published in the almanac Amerikán in 1922 and from what Jos. P. Šedivý (son of Joseph Šedivý) wrote in various articles for Czechs, published in the almanac Pionýr. Both men came as boys with their parents with the first expedition that settled in Niobrara. Joseph V. Holeček was born in Černá Hůra near Dymokury, in August, 1856, and is living in Niobrara.

Joseph P. Šedivý was born in Nymburk, October 28. 1856, died in Verdigre, Nebr., December 13, 1918. His father, Joseph Šedivý, kept a diary, from which the following is taken:

"When I arrived in Niobrara, there were six settlers there. The county surveyor (the first, elected in 1870) was a squaw man, his wife being a Ponca Indian, and this was true of some other white settlers, mostly Frenchmen. A squaw man named Wall lived in a log house. That and a few Indian tepees constituted Niobrara. The law, as far as the county was concerned, was administered in various places, there being no court house. Henry Sturgess, the second county clerk, had an office in his home, a mile west of Niobrara. H. Westerman, county treasurer, officiated in his log store and for the year 1870 he collected $70.00. There were hardly any settlers, who was to pay taxes? T. N. Paxton, county judge, occasionally performed the marriage service for Indians. In those days the land office was in Dakota City, a distance of 110 miles, which I had to traverse twice, that is,—make two trips, to arrange for entry on land. I had helped some of the others with expenses, but few could repay me in cash, although they did repay me in work. Thus, although I had been in fair circumstances, I became so poor that I had not five dollars with which to buy a sack of flour.

The first year (1870) was dry, the second brought hail, the third grasshoppers. We asked help from the commander of Fort Randall, where we went a distance of forty-five miles. We told him that his soldiers had robbed us in Sioux City, but while he could do nothing about that, he had two spans of mules harnessed to a wagon and sent us sixty bushels of corn, four barrels of flour and four boxes of dried soup. There were fifteen families of us at the time, it was meant for all.

During the next three years none of the settlers except Janoušek, Randa and me had teams. We three had oxen. I loaned mine out to those who had none and they repaid me by work of their hands. I used to haul flour from Nor-

folk, the nearest mill, seventy miles away. No roads, no bridges, no farms, no timber—all the way over those seventy miles not a fragment of wood to be seen. I had to take along an ax, hoe, shovel, fuel and provisions, that I could cook food, and I used to sleep under the wagon, wrapped in a quilt. How did I know the way to Norfolk? My land was crossed by Texas cattle trails, which the cowboys used when driving the animals to reservations and military forts. They did much damage and when I remonstrated, a cowboy aimed his revolver at me and told me if I did not like it, he would make it plainer. Once when I was bringing twenty sacks (100 pounds each) of flour from Norfolk and was fording the stream, my wagon broke through the ice. I had to unyoke the oxen, pick out the broken ice between the wheels, pull out the empty wagon, and re-load. I was so drenched and frozen that I had to run to the nearest farm, owned by a German, who gave me clothing while mine was being dried. A few years later a mill was built in St. James, fifty miles distant, where we then went, but the way was hilly and in winter our oxen suffered greatly on the ice-covered roads. At the mill there was no shelter. We had to tie the beasts to the fence and in the morning found them covered with snow. We ourselves had to spend the night on the bare floor in the mill. The Niobrara river was and is full of quicksand and is hard to ford.

Jos. P. Šedivý

We Czechs were always on good terms with the Ponca Indians, although we had to put up with their thievery, until we complained to the commander of Ft. Randall, who

stopped it. However, I remember a tragedy of one of my neighbors, a Frenchman. His Indian wife and mother of his four children died, whereupon he took a new spouse, a young Indian girl. The following day two bucks appeared and wanted her back. He would not give her up and they beat him to death with clubs. These French squaw men got supplies from the government the same as if they had been Indians."

Joseph Šedivý was the first Czech to pay an entry fee on a homestead in Knox County and for some time the only one to own a team of horses.

Those were cowboy days, when herds numbering thousands of animals were driven north to the forts and reservations. Janoušek had a saloon in Niobrara. What more natural then that the cowboys should ride up to the bar and demand a drink, or offer the alternative of shooting up the place? However, Janoušek was a diplomat. Quietly, and sometimes very hurriedly, he made his exit when they began to shoot, and sent his wife in his stead. Even drunken cowboys respected a decent woman and subsided, departing without causing much damage.

Drouths, grasshoppers, Indians, privations—all of this our people had to endure. In times of poor harvests the commander of Fort Randall gave them provisions for sustenance. In negotiating for these Anton Pishel (Pišl, born in Rychnov, 1836, died in Santa Rosa, Cal., Feb. 1, 1900) who was tailor in Fort Randall, was of great assistance, for he was about the only man who could speak some English. He and his son also spoke German fluently. Thus he laid the case before the commander in full and was not refused. The postoffice Pishelville was named for Mr. Pishel. Like many other small postoffice stations, it was abolished after the rural mail delivery was instituted. Emil Pishel (the son), who conducted the store established there by his father, sold it and lives in retirement on his farm.

The winter of 1880-1881 was a cruel one, with heavy snow. The nearest railroad, the Chicago, Milwaukee and

St. Paul at Running Water, South Dakota, over the Missouri River, had no trains running. The Niobrara Pioneer, a weekly, was printed on wrapping paper used in the store of Bonesteel & Company. In March a thaw came on, the ice broke and the town was inundated. The inhabitants were obliged to change to a higher location, so they moved the entire town a mile west and old Niobrara became a pasture.

During the summer and fall of 1870 Verdigre valley was a waste. The only Czech settlers there were Joseph Mladý and John Tikalský, whose homesteads later became the site of the town of Verdigre. Mladý was born in Skrýchov, Milevsko. Tikalský was born May 15, 1848 in Suchodol near Budějovice and came to Chicago July 1, 1867. In April, 1870, he took 160 acres in Section 5. Living at the age of 78 with his son Ben, on a farm near Verdigre.

John Tikalský

Later the Following Settled There:

Matěj Pavlík and his sons, Joseph and John, born in Božetice, Tábor; V. Šťoural, Staré Prachatice, Písek; Frank Pavelka, Staré Prachatice, Písek. (Came from Minnesota). John Beran, Božetice, Tábor. Came from Chicago. Died in 1925. Joseph Dryak, Lužec. Born 1842, came to Chicago in 1866. In 1870 he took 320 acres in Sec. 31, T. 32, R. 7, near Pishelville. Lived there 48 years, died in 1921. Joseph Pavlík, son of Matěj, born in Božetice near Tábor, Sept. 16, 1847, come to Chicago in 1867. In 1870 took 160 acres in Sec. 4, adjoining the town of Verdigre. Still living. John Barták, Sestroun near Tábor, born Dec. 26, 1840. Came to Chicago in 1867. In 1880 took up 160 acres west of Verdigre. Died May 12, 1922. Joseph Kálal, Podhoří, Tábor; Frank Kálal, his father, with two sons; John Vagač (Vakoč), Sepekov, Milevsko; Václav Jedlička, Podolí, Písek; John Ondráček, Božetice, Tábor; Václav Dušek, Božetice,

Tábor; Joseph Souhrada, unknown; Václav Tomek, Písek, Lhota; Frank Havlíček, unknown; Mikuláš Kocina, unknown; Václav Mrzena, Božetice, Tábor; Matěj Markytán, unknown.

Mrs. Anna Kálal, widow of Joseph Kálal, writes:

"On September 15, 1873, we started out by rail from Chicago via Sioux City, Iowa, to Yankton, South Dakota, the terminal point. With us, beside my husband, our son, eleven months old, and me, travelled my husband's father, Frank Kálal, with his two sons, John Vagač with two children and Václav Jedlička with his wife, who was a sister to my husband. From Yankton we went by wagon to the Missouri River, on the other side of which was situated the little town of Niobrara. We were ferried across. My cousin Joseph Mladý was, with John Tikalský, the first settler in Verdigre valley and we were going to him. My husband and John Vagač set out afoot to his farm, to arrange for a vehicle for us. In the meantime I tried to purchase provisions, but could not find anything except very poor white bread. Not even potatoes, which I wanted to bake. The only store in the place belonged to Mr. Westerman. We tried to stay our hunger as well as we could with the sour bread and slept on the river bank. The next day (September 28th), the vehicle, with oxen, arrived. Each set his trunk inside and sat down on it. I soon saw that I could travel faster afoot, so I got out and went ahead with my child on my arm. I reached Mr. Hájek's farm, he had been living there two years. I was then only nineteen years old and although exhausted by fatigue and hunger, I still had to feed my baby. On the way I often met Indians but was not frightened, for my father, an old soldier, had taught his children to be brave and unafraid. I rested at Hajeks and then continued until I got to Frank Pavelka's farm, where Joseph Pavlík and John Maštalíř were building a log house. I asked for water, but all they could offer me was water from the stream. Seeing that Mrs. Pavelka had cottage cheese cooking on the stove, I asked for the whey and refreshed myself with that. Mrs. Pavelka prepared lunch

consisting of coffee made of parched rye, corn bread and squash. Feeling strengthened by it, I set out again and had to ford a brook. Upon reaching the farm of Joseph Mladý, my cousin, he was much surprised to think I could have walked thirteen miles, with the baby in my arms, and hungry most of the time. The rest arrived three hours later. In Mladý's home was also the family of Vojtěch Štoural and Frank Malý, stepson of Mladý. We newcomers numbered four families more and Mladýs had but one room, 20x20. So I went to their daughter, Veronica, Mrs. John Beran, who lived two miles further. My husband felt like going back to Chicago immediately, but I urged him to have patience. We brought with us $500.00, which was a small fortune in those times. For instance, the family of Joseph Maštalíř, who brought but a few dollars, suffered much privation. They could not buy a cow or a team for a long time. We used to give them milk and my husband plowed for them, they paying back in work. All of those first homesteaders endured bitter times. During the first year we had five acres of corn, but the grasshoppers destroyed it in one hour. The next year was promising, in June we had fine cucumbers and peas. June 26th hail fell so heavily that three days later it still lay in the gullies. My husband departed for Chicago, to earn some money. John Beran and Frank Pavlík went to the vicinity of Yankton, to work in harvest, for there were a few older settlers there. When my husband was returning home, with his savings in his pocket, somebody stole the money on the train. He arrived with just five cents. One time, when he was away cutting slough grass to cover the roof of the shelter for stock, I was home alone. About twenty Indians came in asking for bread. I cut slices and spread them with syrup and they

A. V. Kouba
banker in Verdigre.

went away satisfied. I was never afraid of them; in fact, I found them reliable and friendly.

After farming fifteen years we moved to the newly-established town of Verdigre where we conducted a meat market and hotel. Three children were born to us. One boy died at the age of five. My daughter, who married Dr. Clark, died at the age of 37. My oldest child, Dr. F. J. Kálal, who practiced for many years in Nebraska, is located in Texas. My husband died in 1926 and I live with my granddaughter."

It was not until after 1880 that settlements in this vicinity began to form, mainly on account of lack of railroad transportation. At present Czechs live in and about Niobrara, Pishelville, Knoxville, Sparta, Jelen and Verdigre.

Butler County – 1869

Another large Czech county, our people living all through it, most heavily in and about Abie, Linwood, Bruno, Brainard, David City and Dwight. The most Catholic of all counties where Czechs live. Contains several handsome church, school and rectory buildings.

Linwood:—The first postoffice in the county was Linwood, established in 1867, where, on Skull Creek, was situated the first mill, run by water power. The nearest town was Fremont. Linwood as a town was established in 1879 and incorporated in 1887.

The first Czech to come here was Peter Kastl, who took up land in 1866, possibly prior thereto, but did not stay. He settled in Saunders County, where further mention of him is made.

The first Czechs to settle in this vicinity, in 1869, were:

Vojtěch (Albert) Mareš, born in Bezděkov, came to Ohio in 1857, died in 1903.

Václav Vácha, born in Bechyně near Tábor in 1831. He came to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1864. By trade a cooper, he worked and saved money to buy land. He settled near Linwood in 1869 and after proving upon his homestead, moved to Colfax County, where he died in 1900, his wife in 1905, both buried in Heun. He was one of the founders of

the church parish, superintended the building and did much of the carved work, all gratis.

1870—The Following Came:

Albert Prai, born in Nová Kdyně, died in 1924.

1871—The Following Came:

John Ticháček, born in Vojtěšice, died in 1891; Thomas Ticháček, Vojtěšice, died in 1921; Václav Ticháček, Vojtěšice, died in 1918;

Thomas Ticháček Sr.

Albert Prai

Joseph Diviš, born in Litovany, Hrotovice, 1828. Removed later to Colfax County, where he died in 1914, buried near Richland. Jacob Kříž, born in Hrotovice, Moravia, died 1910.

1872—The Following Came:

Thomas Vítámvás, Hrotovice, Moravia, died in 1912; Charles Urbánek, Žárovice, Moravia, died 1913; Frank Walla, born in Šamikovice, Moravia, now living in Texas; Vincenc Sedlický, born in Nové Město, Moravia, died in 1913.

1873—The Following Came:

Frank Blatný, born in Hrotovice, Moravia, died 1903; Václav Duda, born in Soustov, died in 1890; Jacob Kavan, born in Lazníky, Moravia, died in 1901; his brother Frank; John Bárta.

1874—The Following Came:

Frank Plašek.

1877—The Following Came:

Frank Juránek, born in Šamikovice, died in 1912.

1880—The Following Came:

Thomas Peltz, born in Litostrov, Moravia, died in 1888; Charles

Přibyl, Litostrov, living in North Dakota; Frank Přibyl, Litostrov, died in 1920.

1881—The Following Came:

John Bratršovský, born in Medlice, Moravia, living.

These all settled around Linwood. About 1881 Czech settlers began to fairly pour in, until now there are about ninety families in the vicinity. The bank and all the business houses of Linwood are in the hands of Czechs.

Abie:—Another old settlement is Abie, where Czechs came also in 1869. Charles Stevens built a store there in 1878 and a postoffice was established in it. Prior to that time he had conducted a similar establishment in Newton. Saunders County, and the settlers around Abie got mail there. In 1880 Stevens sold the store in Abie to Frank Faytinger and Louis Hromas. When the railroad was built through in 1887, the town was founded a mile from the old postoffice and several stores opened in the new Abie. Frank Faytinger moved his store there, his son still being active in the business. Abie is almost entirely Czech, but three families are of another nationality. The first to come were:

1869—The Following Came:

Václav and John Marušák, born in Bratřice, near Čáslav; John Pavel Sr., John Pavel Jr., Joseph and Matěj Pavel, all born in Nasavrky, near Čáslav; Joseph Vyskočil, the same place; Joseph Čuda, born in Okřesanec near Čáslav, living in Schuyler; Frank Faytinger, born in Královradec County, died in 1890; Jacob Vošický, County of Tábor; John Shorný, same place, died in 1877; Joseph Shorný, same place, died in 1921; Frank Procházka, born in Nasavrky, near Čáslav.

Joseph Čuda

1870—The Following Came:

John Vobořil, born in Kozohledy near Čáslav; Matěj Šimerka, born in Podmokly near Čáslav.

Joseph Gruntorád was born in Kozohledy, County Čáslav, in 1834. He married Catherine Žaloudek in 1862 and of the eight children born to them six are living: Joseph, Anton, Henry, Mrs. Mary Schorny, Mrs. Emily Procházka and Mrs. Clara Svoboda. Gruntorád came with his family to this country, to Wisconsin, in

Joseph and Catherine Gruntorád

1866 and later to Butler County, Nebraska, where they suffered the usual pioneer hardships. In 1895 they retired from farming and went to Schuyler to live. Gruntorád died in 1922 and his wife two years later, both buried in Schuyler.

1871—The Following Came:

Václav (Wenzl) Březina, born in County of Čáslav. Died in 1912.

Matěj (Mathias) Šonka (Shonka), born in Smoleč, County Bechyň, February 27, 1827. In 1850 he married Marie Hajný. In those days young men were obliged to spend ten years in military service and the mother urged the father to move to America, where her sons would be free to choose a career. In the fall of 1867 Shonka located five miles south of Cedar Rapids, Ia., with his family, consisting of four sons and three daughters. In 1871, seeing there was not much opportunity for buying more land, due to increase in value, he sold his 80 acres and moved to Butler County, in a prairie schooner. He homesteaded on Skull Creek, near what is now the Abie district, taking 80 acres and buying 320 acres of railroad land for $3.00 per acre, on payments. The family lived at first in a sod house. As there was no school house within four miles of his home, he immediately organized a school district. Since there was no money in the treasury, he called upon his neighbors to assist him. With a yoke of

Matěj and Mary Šonka

oxen and a breaking plow they effected a building that was partly a dug-out and partly sod, boasting of one window, an opening called a door, home-made benches, one chair and one desk. Shonka also organized a church society, which organization built the Catholic church in Abie in 1876.

In 1893 Shonka and family left the farm and moved to Schuyler, where they resided for three years. They then moved to Abie, where they lived to 1905, moving again to Schuyler, in order that they might spend their remaining years with their children. Mrs. Shonka died February 14, 1906, aged 76, Mr. Shonka June 7, 1907, aged 80. Twelve children were born to them: Veronica died in infancy, Anna (Mrs. Joseph Dvořák) died in Schuyler in 1889, and Thomas Shonka in 1914. Those living are: Mary (Mrs. Jos. W. Zerzan), John, Frank W., Kate Coufal, Jos. H., Wesley J., Matthew F., George and Emma Procházka. All except the last reside in Schuyler or on farms in the vicinity. Father and mother Shonka are buried in a beautiful cemetery near Abie. They lie on the crest of a hill overlooking the lovely, fertile farm lands that were once the scene of pioneer hardships, when Indians were their neighbors and antelopes roamed the prairies at will.

J. Walla, born in Moravia. Died in 1888. Frank Barcal, born in 1813, died in 1900.

1872—The Following Came

Frank Tupý, born in Smoleč, near Tábor, died in 1906.

1873—The Following Came:

M. A. Mašek, born September 29, 1848, in County Písek. He came as a three-year-old boy with his parents to Spillville, Iowa, where in 1871 he married Rose Jaroš, seven sons and one daughter being born to them. At the time he came, several families started for Nebraska with ox and horse teams. The trip lasted six weeks and five days, until they reached Skull Creek, where they found the families of Šimerka. Vobořil, Pavel, Procházka and others. Mašek and his caravan settled on lands two and three miles west of the creek. As a proof of his standing in the community, he was elected a member of the school district upon its founding and held that office for thirty-two years, besides being township treasurer, justice of the peace and county commissioner. He was the advisor of pioneer settlers, for he alone spoke English well and was always willing to help in time of need, at the same time being a loyal Czech and a good citizen. During the World War he established a local chapter of the Red Cross before steps were taken to establish one in Abie, and he was the first to contribute.

Frank and John Hájek. John Hájek was born in 1812 and died in 1892.

1874—The Following Came:

Václav Roh, born May 16, 1838, in Utěchovičky, County Tábor, still living. One of the few real pioneers left. James Krenk, Vrbice, Čáslav, died 1886; John Krenk, Vrbice, Čáslav, died 1918; Frank

Krenk, Vrbice, died in 1917; Martin Řezáč, born in Veska near Dačice, Moravia, in 1832, died in 1900; Václav Dušátko came in 1876. He was born in 1826, Štrampouch, Čáslav, married Barbara Turek. He died in 1880, she in 1912.

These were followed by their countrymen in large numbers, so that there are now in the vicinity but two families of another nationality.

Bruno:—This village was originally named Brno (for the capital of Moravia, as this county is heavily settled by

Main street, Linwood

people from Moravia). It was established in 1887 and later the railroad company changed the name to Bruno, that being more easily pronounced.

1870—The Following Came:

Matěj Váchal, from Plzeň; Frank Novotný, from Plzeň.

1871—The Following Came:

Joseph Pošvář, born in Oujezd, died in 1912; Charles Coufal, born in 1843 in Dalešice, living; Joseph Jakl, died in 1908.

1872—The Following Came:

Václav Mazanec, born in Slavětice, died in 1917; Frank Mazanec, same place, died in 1914; John F. Štáva, born in Biskupice, 1850, living; Václav Wittera (Vitera), born in Čáslav, died in 1902; John Stuchlík, born in 1849, in Petrůvka near Třebíč, Moravia, living; John Paseka, born in Dalešice, Moravia, living.

1873—The Following Came:

John Urbánek, born in Budějovice. Died in 1874.

Frank Fleming (Kožíšek), born in 1835 in Bohemia. Came to Wisconsin in the early sixties and served two years in the civil War, where he changed his name to Fleming. A soldier by that name was killed in action, and as the name Kožíšek was hard to pronounce, the others gave him the dead man's name, which he and his children used. However, strange to relate, his grandchildren have again taken the name of Kožíšek.

John J. Proškovec, born in 1853 in Strejčkovice, living in Bruno; Joseph Dobrý, born near Čáslav; Joseph Semerád, born near Čáslav. died in 1921; Joseph Dostál, born in 1845, living in Plattsmouth; Anton Proškovec, born in Strejčkovice in 1852. For years a monument maker of merit in Bruno. Prominent in civic and political life. John Proškovec, born in Strejčkovice. Died in 1916.

1875—The Following Came:

John Havlovec, Homolka, living in Oklahoma; Václav Poláček, born near Čáslav, died in 1918; Martin Pošvář, Oujezd, died many years ago; Jacob Fuksa, born in Budějovice, died in 1922; John Frdlík, died in 1892.

1877—The Following Came:

Martin Říha, died in 1923; John Rech, born in Radonice in 1850, living near Brainard.

Appleton:—The first came to this vicinity in 1873.

1873—The Following Came:

Frank Kovář, born in Dačice, Moravia. Died in 1918. His brother, Ignác, from the same place. Died in 1914.

1874—The Following Came:

Frank Stýskal, born in Rabštejn near Dačice, Moravia, died in 1916, aged 97; his sons: Frank Jr., born in Rabštejn, died in 1910; John, born in 1851 in Rabštejn, living in David City; Albert Hineš, born in Mačerov, Moravia, in 1845, died in 1890; Albert Dvořák, born in Rabštejn near Dačice; George Anděl, born in Kynice near Dačice; Matěj Říha, born in Budějovice; Frank Shonka, born near Tábor; came from Iowa, living in David City; Anton Shonka, same place, also from Iowa, died in 1903; Simon Walla, born near Dačice, died many years ago; Anton Kopeček, born near Dačice, died in 1921; Anton Bruner, born near Dačice, came with grown sons and daughters. Sons Anton, Joseph and Matt all took claims and prospered.

1875—The Following Came:

Peter Malý, born in Dačice and his brother, Simon, both died long ago; John Samek, born in Kynice near Dačice; Joseph Pokorný, born in Rabštejn near Dačice, died in 1918; Martin Veverka, born in Dačice, died long ago; Peter Virgl, born in Dačice; Anton Virgl, from same

place, now living in Lincoln; Joseph Šabata, born in Třebíč, Moravia, died in 1922.

1876—The Following Came:

Matěj Svoboda, born in Kynice near Dačice; Martin Chloupek, born near Dačice; Václav Pratt, born in Dačice, died in 1912.

Brainard:—The first came in 1875 and they were:

Matěj Slavík, born in Okřesanec; Frank Maixner, born in Příjemky, Chotěboř.

Within two years later came the following:

Matěj Kabourek, born in Štěpánov, Lišov; Ignác Dvořák Sr., born in Pustinná, Jindřichův Hradec; Joseph Semín Sr., born in Vlašímsko; Frank Nováček Sr., born in Jasenice, Náměst; Joseph Jakub Sr., born in Myslibořice, Hrotovice.

David City:—Established in 1872 and made county seat in 1874. Czechs here do not form a very heavy settlement. The first came about 1878 and they were: Frank Kašpar, Martin Novotný, Frank Dvořák, Frank Pešek, Frank Sudík, John Styskal, Joseph Kudrna and others. Czechs are represented here by the second generation very creditably.

Dwight:—Another large settlement, where our people first settled in 1878, many coming from Abie and Saunders County, so that it is now almost entirely Czech. The town was established in 1887, when the railroad was built.

1878—The Following Came:

Frank Coufal, born in Krhov, Moravia, died in 1916; Leopold. Matt and John Hotový, born in Rouchovany, near Mor. Krumlov, all living;Anton Andrle, died in 1910; Jos. F. and Anton Coufal, born in Rouchovany, living; Philip Novák, born in Šamikovice, living.

This colony grew so that at present it overflows into Seward County and six miles west of Dwight.

Loma:—Another Czech settlement, where the first came about the time they settled around Dwight. The town was established in 1901.

Besides the settlements here described, Czechs live all over the county, one after another buying fine farms for his sons, so that they and their descendants number one third of all the inhabitants.

Matěj (Michael) J. Bouše, a deservedly popular man, who lived many years in David City as a county official,

prepared the data about this county. He died before they were published. Matěj J. Bouše was born in 1867 in Hajany, County Blatná. In 1881 he emigrated to Cleveland, Ohio, later moved to Schuyler, then settled in David City, where he engaged in business. In 1891 he married Miss Mary T. Zerzan of Schuyler. He died April 1, 1927, in Belleville, Texas, while travelling through the south in search of health. Everyone who knew him mourned his death, for he was ever ready to aid by word and deed.

Mat. J. Bouše

Czechs in this county, as elsewhere, acquitted themselves very creditably as co-workers with their fellow-countrymen in Nebraska during the war. They responded generously to every call issued by their adopted country (the United States), and the Red Cross. In addition to that, they contributed heavily toward the funds gathered by the Bohemian National Alliance and the National Alliance of Bohemian Catholics in America. On July 23, 1918, a meeting was called in David City for the purpose of founding a branch of the Bohemian National Alliance for Butler County. A central committee with headquarters in David City was chosen, and other committees for each Czech settlement in the county. It was agreed that at least $20,000 must be gathered to help free the mother country (Bohemia) from Austria. Butler County Czechs went over the top, for they contributed $27,452.00, as follows: David City, $2,163.00; Linwood, $765.50; Abie, $4,600.00, Bruno, $4,500.00; Brainard, $2,000.00; Dwight, $5,192.50; Ulysses, $3,231.00 and the bazaar in Brainard brought $5,000.00. On October 14, 1918, the treasurer sent $10,250.50 to the Bohemian National Alliance in Omaha; a like amount to the National Alliance of Bohemian Catholics in America, Chicago, $132.30 paid for various expenses, and

the remainder was divided among local worthy organizations.

The pioneers of this county naturally had to endure hardships common to all pioneers, but they are the first to have a monument erected to a group of their number. It stands in Red Willow County, but those whom it commemorates were Butler County Czechs travelling to western Nebraska. In May, 1885, the families of John Ošmera (wife and four children), Joseph Kavalec (wife and two children), John Macek (wife and child), and Jacob Lang and his two children, set out in covered, ox-drawn wagons, to settle on homesteads in Dundy County (by another account in Hayes County). On May 26th they camped in Richmond Canyon, midway between Bartley and Cambridge, at a point where the D. L. D. Highway now crosses.

Marker in Red Willow County commemorating drowning of Butler County pioneers.
(Mary and John Ošmera)

About nine o'clock a wall of water came down the canyon and swept the entire camp away. Of the seventeen members, three women and six children were drowned. To commemorate this incident a monument was erected near the place where these emigrants camped for the night.

On May 25, 1924, twenty-five hundred people gathered for the exercises, from all parts of southwestern Nebraska. Hon. C. E. Eldred of McCook, Hon. B. F. Butler of Cambridge and Hon. A. M. Kayes of Holbrook and others spoke and the Cambridge band played. Mrs. Mary Vlaším of St.

Paul, Nebr., (a daughter of Jacob Lang), John Ošmera of Weston, Nebr., and his sister Mary Ošmera, of Brainard, Nebr., the only survivors of that party, were present. The monument is a granite slab, bearing the names of the women who were drowned, the date of occurrence and a brief statement of the destination of the party. The project of placing it originated with D. F. Neiswanger of Cambridge, the expenses of $300.00 being defrayed by popular subscription.

Jefferson County – 1869

Although the first Czechs came into this county in the early days, it, like Johnson County, has never attained any size worth mentioning, and is probably an extension of Saline and Fillmore counties. It is recorded that the colony was originally established by Frank Závodský, born in Humpolec, Bohemia, who moved later to Colorado, where he died. In the early nineties the following lived there:

John and Joseph Šťastný, born in Křenovice. Their postoffice was Swanton, Saline County.

Václav Hofman and Joseph Houser (born in Březí, County Písek), P. O. Daykin.

P. O. Reynolds:

George Chaloupka, came from Wisconsin; Joseph Červený, born in Podmokle; Frank Fiala, born in Senkov, Louny; Adolph Kašpárek, born in Jednota, Ratiboř; Karel (Charles) Tůma, born in Letov, Plánice; Frank Halík, born in Hradešice, Strakonice; Joseph Cacák, born in Černovice, Vlaším.

P. O. Buckley:

Fr. Sadil, born in Humpolec; Frank and Joseph Hajný, born in Nepomuk, Plzeň; Frank Tůma, Letov, Plánice.

P. O. Diller:

Joseph Křejdl, Mýto, Hořovice; Anton Hajný, Nihov, Velká Byteš; Frank Hejtmánek.

Cass County – 1872

The only place where Czechs live in this county is in the town of Plattsmouth, where they were largely employed in the Burlington & Missouri Railroad shops, with the proportionate percentage of business men. Previous

to the last strike there were about eighty families here. now there are about fifty, many having moved away to find employment elsewhere.

The first Czech on record here was the Catholic missionary priest, Rev. Francis Bobal, of whom more detailed mention is made in the chapter on religion. He had spent two years in England, to learn the English language, and was then sent out as missionary, serving in that capacity in the state of Nebraska. He came in 1872.

John Nášel, with daughter and grandchildren

1874—The Following Came:

Rev. Bobal's cousin, John Nášel, came October 28th, with his family.

1875—The Following Came:

Frank Koláček, John Svoboda, Joseph Kalášek, Anton Kanka and Joseph Fiala. All born in Soroka, Moravia, and all having spent three years in Petersburg, Virginia.

John Hadraba, born in Bohemia, came from Cleveland, Ohio; Edward Svoboda, born in Soroka, Moravia; Václav Skoumal, born in Brno, Moravia. All came with their families.

1876—The Following Came:

Václav Hadraba; Anton Kroulík, born in Krkonoše; John Novotný, born in Rožinka, Moravia.

1877—The Following Came:

John Toman and Joseph Vetešník, from Rožinka, Moravia.

1878—The Following Came:

Thomas Janda and his married sons: Frank, Cyril and Anton, and his son-in-law Frank Nováček—all from Bystřice, Moravia.

Clay County – 1874

One of the smaller counties, of which reports are meager. The first came in 1874 and were: Václav Vlk and V. Janda, who settled in the vicinity of Fairfield, and Joseph Fořt,

who settled in the vicinity of Deweese. In the nineties the following were living there:

P. O. Deweese:

Joseph Fořt, born in Lukavice; Cyril Mužík, Dolní Loučka, Tišnov; Frank Pochop, Kaly, Tišnov; Fr. Pyšný, Domanín, Bystřice; Frank Svoboda, Žďár; Frank Beran, Loučka, Tišnov; John Sýkora, Bobrovka, Nové Město; Joseph Chvála, Cvrčoves; Fr. Mužík, Dolní Loučka, Tišnov; Frank Dobeš, Horní Loučka; Metoděj Mazour, Kaly; Rudolph Melichar, Ždárec; Bedřich Vap, Vykonín, Tišnov; Ignác Vap, Vykonín, Tišnov; Thomas Kadlec, Vykonín, Tišnov; Frank Mazour, Kaly, Tišnov; Joseph, John, Frank and Jos. H. Bárta, Leština, Čáslav; Frank Bradač, Albrechtice, Bystřice; Frank Bednář, Horní Loučka, Tišnov; Fr. Skalka, Domanín, Bystřice; Jacob Petr, Nebštych, Velká Byteš; Joseph Borek, Horní Loučka, Tišnov.

P. O. Fairfield:

Václav Vlk, Tvrzice, Volyň; Florian Čermák, Konopiště, Prachatice; Vojtěch Janda, Doubrava, Vl. Březí; John Pešek, Tvrzice, Volyň; Fr. Zlatkovský, Stražek, Bystřice; Joseph and Frank Loup, Stražek, Bystřice; John Sláma, Tři Studně, Nové Město.

P. O. Spring Ranch:

Čeněk Hubáček, Janovice, Bystřice; Ignác Mazour, Kaly, Tišnov; Severin Pavelka, Štěpánovice, Tišnov; Joseph and Frank Koukal, Divišov, Bystřice; Matěj Čarda, Hrdlořezy, Třeboň; Ignác Fričeк, Plasy, Královice; Joseph Střítecký, Dolní Újezd, Litomyšl; Frank Nejezchleb, Babice, Brno; Marie Hlavatý, Chvalovice; Enos Svoboda, Albrechtice, Bystřice.

Webster County – 1874

This also is one of the counties containing small settlements that have never grown to any proportions. However, the Czech pioneers here have gained fame in Nebraska literature, for it is about them that Miss Willa Cather has written with such rare understanding and sympathy. Black Hawk in her book "My Antonia" is Red Cloud, her own home town. It is very unusual for an American, be he or she ever so kindly and broadminded, to entirely grasp the psychology of a foreign people, but Miss Cather has done it thoroughly.

Czechs in this county live around Red Cloud, Bladen and Blue Hill.

1874—The Following Came:

Jacob Polnický, born in Kojetín, Německý Brod; John Havel, Smrdov, Habry.

1876—The Following Came:

Matěj Kudrna, Matěj Štrobl, John Zajíc, Joseph Bárta—all from Smrdov, Habry; Joseph Šídlo, Třebíč, Moravia.

All of these settled five to eight miles south of Red Cloud. In the early nineties the following were living there:

In Red Cloud:

John Polnický, born in Kojetín, Čáslav; Frank Strobl, Smrdov, Habry; Joseph Kubíček, Všehrady, Plzeň.

P. O. Red Cloud:

Anton Sadílek, unknown; Joseph Šídlo, Třebíč, Jihlava; Matěj Vavřička, Matěj Štrobl, Frank Bárta, M. Kudrna, John Havel, Jos. Kudrna, Joseph Jelínek, John Zajíc—all from Smrdov, Habry; Joseph Pavlík, Kojetín, Čáslav; Joseph Polnický, Kojetín.

John Polnický

P. O. Bladen:

Rudolph Zajíček, Újezd, Zbirov; Frank and Václav Zítek, Drozdov, Hořov; V. Hubatka, Karez; Frank Souček, Volešinky, Bystřice.

P. O. Blue Hill:

K. Lukáš, Ostrov, Žďár; F. Mazel, Volešinky, Bystřice; J. Hubáček, Janovice, Bystřice; V. Heřman, Žďár; Fr. Zelený, Ostrov, Žďár; Karel Novák, Šimanov; John Dušek, B. Lhota, Ledeč; Joseph Pavelka, B. Lhota, Ledeč; Florian Hájek, Ostrov, Žďár.

At the present time there are about twenty-five families around Red Cloud and twenty more between Bladen and Blue Hill.

Howard County – 1875

Howard County was organized when a bill, authorizing same, was passed in our legislature March 28, 1871 The Czech colony in this county was established with the aid of the Slovania Colonization Club in Omaha, mention of which has been made in the introduction. In March, 1875, Václav L. Vodička and Matěj Němec of Omaha and Vavřinec Dobeš of New Prague, Minn., as committee were sent out to investigate suitable lands for a colony. They

recommended Howard County, especially that part lying between the Loup rivers and west of St. Paul, near the former postoffice called Warsaw.

1875—The Following Came:

Good homesteads were gone, so the settlers were obliged to buy farms. The first who came, in March, 1875, was Martin Vacek (born in Lažiště 1827, died August 15, 1881, on board a ship, on his way to visit his native land) from New Prague, Minnesota. He bought a partly improved farm, n. w. quarter 30-14-10, with buildings, from John C. Burch, for $1,500.00. His five sons came with him, the oldest of whom, Peter, later bought n. e. quarter 30-15-10 and another son, Matěj, n. e. quarter 19-14-10.

Martin Slobodný

Vavřinec Dobeš, bought s. w. quarter 30-14-10; Jacob Kubeš, Vacek's son-in-law, s. w. quarter 19-14-10.

Martin Slobodný (born in Ponědraž) bought n. w. quarter 10-14-11, where later the Czech Catholic cemetery called Warsaw was established.

John, Joseph, Václav and Anton Holeček, born in Výčapy near Čáslav, came to Schuyler April 25th, 1875. John and Joseph bought the south half 30-15-11, Václav s. w. quarter 26-15-12 and Anton s. e. quarter 14-15-12.

Matěj Suchánek, born in Výlantice near Bystřice, bought n. e. quarter 30-15-11.

John Svoboda came June 5th with his son, Charles V., both born in Jaroměřice, Moravia. Chas. V., having received a good education in his native land, later became prominent here among his compatriots. He was the first Czech to hold political office, having been county clerk six years (three terms). In 1900 he was nominated for state secretary by the following parties: Populist, Democrat and Silver Republican. In 1928 he was nominated for state auditor on the Democratic ticket. He has been active in various farm organizations, as Farmers' Alliance, Farmers' Union and Farm Bureau, also a member of the State Constitutional Convention, 1919-1920, and legislature, 1923.

Václav Toman, Prusice, County Černý Kostelec, bought 28-16-11; His son Joseph Toman, same birthplace, 29-16-11; Anton Francl, Švihov, s. w. quarter 22-15-11; John Pokorný, Znojmo, Moravia, bought n. w. quarter 28-15-11, where later the Bohemian National cemetery was established; Matěj Bláha, Znojmo, Moravia, south half 28-15-11; Anton Chalupský, born in Týn, bought 33 and 34-16-11.

1876—The Following Came:

Vojtěch Ševčík, born in Ponědraž near Lomnice. Came from Winona, Minnesota, and bought s. e. quarter 34-15-11, later five more

quarters, and five of his six sons own and cultivate these farms creditably.

Jacob Ševčík, Vojtěch's brother, same birthplace, 9-14-11; Jacob Trubl, his brother-in-law, born Křtěnov, s. w. quarter 35-15-11; Joseph Trubl, his brother, same birthplace, n. w. quarter 35-15-11; John Komzák, Komárov near Soběslava, came with Ševčík from Minnesota, bought s. w. quarter 26-15-11; John Šafářík, Ženšice near Čáslav, n. e. quarter 34-15-12; Václav Horký, Čáslav, s. e. quarter 6-14-11; Joseph Pavlík, Výčapy, n. w. quarter 24-15-12; John Svoboda, Koukalka, Čáslav, n. e. quarter 14-15-12; John Maňásek, Koukalka, Čáslav, s. e. quarter 18-15-11; Václav Fišer, Brambory, n. e. quarter 22-15-11.

Albert Ševčík
Born Mch. 30, 1833 in Poněděraž, died Aug. 20, 1927.

1877—The Following Came:

Bartoloměj Bartizal, Čáslav, s. e. quarter 8-14-10; Frant. Cílek, Soběslav, Tábor, 12-14-11; Martin Cílek, same birthplace, 11-14-11; Martin Papoušek, Volešná, Třeboň, came from Winona County, Minnesota, bought south half 31-15-10.

Frank Bárta (Bartl), Křtěnov, Vltavotýn. For many years conducted a business in St. Paul. After his death, his widow (born Veronica Kavan) managed it until her death in 1927.

Frank Manasil, born in Moravia, came from Winona County, Minnesota, with the preceding. Bought east half of s. w. quarter 3-15-11, where for many years he did blacksmithing, at the same time being sexton of the church.

John Hurt, Oujezdec, Čáslav, s. w. quarter 2-14-12; Anton Hurt, Dubina, s. e. quarter 4-14-12; Frank Suntych, Dubina, n. e. quarter 10-14-12; Frank Bureš, Leština, s. e. quarter 3-14-12; Frank Nesyba, Slavíkovice, Jemnice, Moravia, s. w. quarter 34-15-12; Joseph Jeřábek, Hrabešín, Kutná Hora, s. w. quarter 33-15-12; Václav Novák, Bučice, Čáslav, n. w. quarter 33-15-12; Joseph Bartuněk, Oujezdec, west half of s. e. quarter 33-15-12; Matěj Mrkvička, s. w. quarter 3-14-12; Václav Hurt, n. e. quarter 9-14-12; John

Frank and Veronica (Kavan) Bartl
Born Dec. 6, 1856. Died Oct. 22, 1902.
Born Feb. 2, 1859. Died Sept. 28, 1927.

Kopta, Horka, Čáslav, n. w. quarter 29-15-11; Jos. Ambrož, Bečice, Hluboká, n. w. quarter 18-15-11; Vojtěch Ambrož, same birthplace, east half of s. e. quarter 22-15-11; Frank Ambrož, same birthplace, n. e. quarter 26-15-11; John Pazdera, Tupes, Přelouč, n. e. quarter 29-15-10; Anton Špilinek, Skuhrov, Habry, n. w. quarter 26-16-12; John Tuma, Janov, Selčany, n. w. quarter 22-16-12; Jos. F. Tuma, Lhota, Selčany, n. w. quarter 26-16-12; Joseph Tuma, Lhota, Selčany, n. e. quarter 26-16-12; Václav Křepela, Elstýn, Hoř. Týn, n. e. quarter 27-16-12; Linhart Vlach, Radoves, Domažlice, west half 14-16-12; John Moravec, Damírov, s. w. quarter 22-16-12; Frank Moravec, Opatovice, n. w. quarter 27-16-12; J. Coufal, Opatovice, Čáslav, n. w. quarter 5-16-12; Václav Ingerle, Dunajovice, Moravia, west half s. w. quarter 34-16-11; M. Kment, 320 acres in 10-16-12; L. Ondrák, s. w.. quarter n. w. quarter 10-16-12; Leopold Rubeš, 240 acres in 10-16-12; Václav Klanecký, Dolní Krupá, Něm. Brod, n. w. quarter 14-15-12; Joseph Klanecký, same birthplace, s. w. quarter 11-15-12; John Dvořák, s. e. quarter 10-15-12; Frank Klepetko, s. e. quarter 15-15-12; Anna Horálek, Rohožec, Čáslav, n. e. quarter 4-15-11; M. Jelínek, Jílovice, Vltavotýn, s. w. quarter 22-15-11; Jacob Novotný, Petřínov, Trhové Sviny, n. e. quarter 28-15-12; Jacob Jon, Sedlovice, Netolice, n. e. quarter 18-14-10.

Anton Chalupský
Born Aug. 26, 1838.
Died Nov. 16, 1916.

The Following were Early Pioneers:

Joseph Novotný, Tábor (came 1878) bought n. e. quarter 31-15-10; John Kafka, Habry, Čáslav; Charles Tenopír, tailor; Joseph Jareš, Horušice; Joseph Punčochář, Vodňany; Frank Klanecký, Dolní Krupá, Něm. Brod; John and Jacob Vincík; John Váša, Brambory, Čáslav; John and Anton Lank.

John and Frank Lhotka, bought west half s. w. quarter 6-14-12. Frank Lhotka lost his reason. He was placed in the Hastings asylum for treatment, escaped and was never found.

The center of the colony for a long time was located in the vicinity of the Czech Catholic church of St. Wenceslaus in Warsaw, Warsaw Precinct. Those who came later were obliged to buy land more distantly located, for prices were rising. One group settled on Turkey Creek, southwest of Farwell (Posen). Some bought in the valley of North Loup River, in the neighborhood of Anton Chalupský, north of Elba. And still others on the high tableland between Munson Creek and North Loup river, south of Cotesfield, while others settled southeast of St. Paul, in a rather sandy bottom,

in the valley of the Middle Loup River, between that and the Sand Hills. Several young men obtained employment in the town of St. Paul and later established business there. Among these were:

Frank Polanský, druggist, born in Kladno; Joseph Vávra, general merchandise, Dříten near Budějovice; Frank Vávra, wheelwright and farm implements; Anton Gruber, Kutná Hora, brickyard; Václav (James) Shalda, Jehnědí near Litomyšl, harness maker; Frank Bárta (Bartl), Křtěnov, Vltavotýn, general merchandise, came from Winona, Minnesota; J. J. Sazama, Radonice near Domažlice, general merchandise; Joseph Kotík, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, general merchandise.

These settled in Elba: Joseph Závitka, meat market; Alois Moravec, Leškovice, Habry, blacksmith; Matěj Náprstek, Červený Újezd, Unhošt, harness maker.

The Czech pioneers here had their share of trouble, as could not be otherwise. They found themselves on a bare prairie, without fuel or water. The few dollars that each

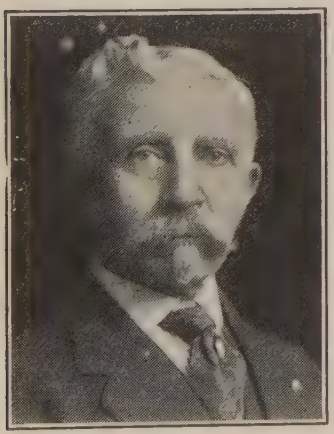
Frank Nesyba's farm on Turkey Creek in the eighteen-eighties, when frame buildings began to supplant dug-outs and sod houses.

brought were spent for a yoke of oxen, wagon, plow and payment on the land. There was no way of earning money, no one had money to hire help. Consequently the new settlers found it almost impossible to get credit. In the spring of 1876 Matěj Suchánek and Joseph Pavlík each bought a sack of flour from Christ. Crowe, who had a water mill on Oak Creek, for the price of $5.00 per sack, and each gave him a mortgage on his pair of oxen and wagon—being all the personal property each had. With the exception of a few, all had been farmers, some in their

native land, others in this country, and they went to work in earnest.

It is difficult to imagine the sensations of these pioneers, their anxieties and hopes, when they turned the first furrow. Surely they deserve admiration for their persistence and patience while battling for an existence. During the first three years swarms of grasshoppers destroyed the result of their labor, so that many of the settlers were plunged into a desperate situation. When the pests ceased their depredations and our people were able to raise crops, despite low prices they paid their debts (that being a Czech trait), got credit and began to prosper. This endurance, industry and thrift which they practiced enabled them to lay the foundation for a comfortable living and the younger generation is reaping the benefit of it. This colony might have grown to larger proportions, as those in other parts of the states have, had it had proper guidance. But the Omaha organization paid no attention to it and no system was used in settling newcomers. The result was that they settled in a scattered fashion and thereby co-operation, so needed in those days, was impossible.

Alas, but few of the early settlers looked far enough ahead to insure more land in time (as did Vojtěch (Albert) Ševčík), so that when their children were grown and lands were more expensive, the majority had to go elsewhere. That is why the colony today numbers only about 270 families, but little more than in the beginning.



C. V. Svoboda

The following sketch, written by Charles Vincent Svoboda of St. Paul, who has supplied the information about Howard County for this history, is an example of what the first Czech settlers in this county experienced:

"We came to Schuyler August 22, 1874. My father, heeding the advice of several of his compatriots, built a home and store building, where he established a meat market. Having difficulty in doing business without the knowledge of English, he became a member of the Bohemian Colonization Club Slovania and in March 1875 moved to Howard County, where he bought land three miles northwest of where the town of Farwell now stands.

About June first we set out from Schuyler in a wagon drawn by a yoke of partly broken oxen, a spring wagon drawn by a span of ponies, and one cow, arriving at Martin Vacek's place on June 5th. The following day father hired a man to get a load of lumber from Grand Island, twenty-four miles away. When it was brought, we moved on our land in Sec. 24, T. 15, R. 12, and began to construct a house 14x18. I was sixteen, the youngest of the family and the only boy. I had never done any manual labor before, having spent all my time in schools in Bohemia. However, I had watched carpenters at work in Schuyler and felt confident I could build a house. My father helped me, but it took us several months to finish it. In the meantime we had nothing but the covered wagon for shelter against rain, wind and scorching sun. After completing the framework, we made several thousand dry brick, with which father bricked the spaces between the studding and finished by plastering the walls. While there was not much style or architecture to it, the house proved warm and comfortable the following winter and I surely thought more of it than of any I have had since. Most of the other settlers had sod houses or dugouts, that is, an abode partly dug out in a bank and finished with sod. Those who were able to make roofs of boards succeeded in having a practically waterproof covering, but some used only willow brush, grass or yellow clay, and in rainy weather the water trickled down, necessitating the use of an umbrella and other protection.

After erecting some kind of a dwelling, the next problem for the settlers to solve was that of getting water. There is plenty of good water in Howard County at a

uniform depth, but in some localities getting it was not an easy task. Practically all of the first wells were dug by hand, varying in depth from 30 feet on creek or river bottoms to 250 feet on the north tableland. I dug four such wells myself, at various times and places on the farm. John Pokorný and Jacob Bláha bought a well auger and drilled many deep wells, taking pay in anything of value, in trade, especially sorghum syrup. Many farmers planted sorghum, which did well in the newly-broken ground, and they had it made into syrup at the Warsaw postoffice, where a mill was operated.

The next important problem was fuel. Sunflowers growing in the ravines, dry buffalo chips and dry grass were used, which later led to the introduction of hay stoves.

Timber grew along the Loup rivers and some of the creeks, but the majority of such lands were already taken. We had to go eighteen miles to Davis Creek, or twenty-four miles to Rock Creek, for wood. That meant a drive of forty-eight miles, beside cutting and loading the wood, all during a short winter day.

Mary (Dobeš) Svoboda, mother of C. V. Svoboda. Born Aug. 15, 1829 in Bounov, Morava. Died Dec. 3, 1913 in St. Paul, Nebr.

Deer were scarce, but there was plenty of white-tail jackrabbits, prairie chicken, quail and thousands of wild geese and ducks in the fall and spring. A peculiar feature of the country were the prairie-dog towns. These animals, the largest of the gopher family, live in deep burrows in the ground, eight to twelve in one family, in compact colonies, covering thousands of acres in some localities. The largest dogtown in Howard County used to be above Elba, in the North Loup valley, extending nearly four miles up the river. Others were on

Turkey Creek, Oak Creek and Middle Loup bottoms. Their cheery "yip-yip-yip" used to greet the passer-by as, sitting on the mounds in family groups around the entrance to their abode, they would flip, flip, flip their little tails and disappear when anyone approached. Here and there an owl or a rattlesnake would follow, sometimes into the same hole.

Rattlesnakes used to be quite numerous in these dog-towns and were a menace to early settlers. Horses, dogs and people were bitten by them. Frank Nesyba's wife, on Turkey Creek, was one of their victims, but fortunately was saved by the use of whiskey, the only remedy known. John Šafářík's little boy did not escape as easily and died from the bite of a snake. During the first summer I killed a dozen of them, of various sizes. In August of that year (1875) I went with Mat. Suchánek on a hunting and reconnoitering expedition to the North Loup river. We walked along the old military trail on John M. Parker's farm, near the present Cotesfield townsite, each carrying an old-country muzzle loader, ready to shoot. Suchánek followed the left trail and I the right. Suddenly a rattling sound drew our attention to a big snake coiled near the road, about three feet from Suchánek's knee. He was right in the act of coiling backward and ready to strike. Suchánek, scared stiff, stood like a "pillar of salt," unable to move. I stepped back, dropped the gun and shot the snake just in time to prevent his deadly stroke. Upon examination we found that my shot had cut off the head and what looked like half the rattles, still leaving twenty-nine of them. Upon measuring the reptile, we found he was seven feet and two inches long, the biggest rattler I ever saw. Gradually they were exterminated.

When the land became more valuable, efforts were made to kill off the prairie dogs, with only partial success, until a few years ago, when the Department of Agriculture found an effective method after a series of experiments. There are still a few prairie dogs in places, but their towns are a thing of the past in Howard County.

I saw plenty prairie fires and fought a great many, but must say that most of the stories we read about them are exaggerated. At times they caused considerable damage, but no one needed to fear loss of life if common sense was used. As to blizzards and snow storms, I was in all the snow storms and in many of the old-fashioned Nebraska blizzards since 1875 without getting even a chilblain. Most of the suffering caused by such storms in the early years was because of lack of experience, judgment and forethought. The biggest snowfall occurred in the winter of 1880-1881, accompanied by a severe cold. A Czech pioneer named Novotný froze to death that winter, while walking from St. Paul to his farm, three miles away. I was starting for home at dusk, a distance of fourteen miles, with a load, and saw him walking with some groceries. It was snowing and apparently he took a short cut across a field after he got out of town. He lost his way and walked in a circle around a strawstack and was found dead the next morning. The snowdrifts were so high that his funeral had to be postponed for several weeks, the roads being impassable. That winter many farmers, not being able to get flour after their supplies gave out, ground wheat in coffee-mills.

The worst affliction were the migrating locusts, usually called grasshoppers. In 1875 they damaged the crops, but we had a little wheat left for the few chickens, for the manufacture of cereal coffee (an invention of pioneer women, the Postum of the present time) and for some flour to be ground in the Dannebrog and Oak Creek grist mills. In 1876 we broke about thirty acres of prairie. Mother and I planted all of it with corn. There was plenty of rain and the corn grew rapidly, reaching a height of 6-7 feet by the latter part of July. It tasselled out and began forming large ears, when one hot, sunny day the wind suddenly changed and myriads of grasshoppers began to come down. They stayed a few days, waiting for a favorable wind to help them resume their journey, and of course in the meantime eating everything in sight. Our field of big corn was reduced to stubs of stalks about a foot high. Vegetation of any kind disappeared and consequently absolutely nothing

was raised that year. People actually suffered. Some aid was brought from the east, but the Czech settlers never got any of it. The following year a very good crop of wheat was raised, but much of it was lost on account of a dearth of harvesting machinery.

Frank Kelly bought a new header and undertook to harvest about 400 acres for a number of farmers. He agreed to cut mine and I was to work with the header. We labored night and day for over two weeks, cutting a good share of the wheat after it was half shattered. It was heavy and the work was hard. Nobody had sufficient experience in handling headed grain. Stacks were not built right and got wet. After the wheat was threshed, we had to spread

John S. Ševčik's farm in Warsaw

it on the ground to dry. When we had a load dried, I made my first trip to market, a trip I shall never forget. I loaded fifteen sacks of wheat on my spring wagon and set out for our nearest grain market, Grand Island, thirty-two miles away. I took some food along, stopped a while at noon to eat and feed the horses. While I lay under the wagon and napped, the horses ate the rest of my lunch. The roads through the sandhills were bad and I arrived in Grand Island after four o'clock. Charles Wasmer, one of the two grain buyers, looked at my wheat and offered me forty cents per bushel, saying it was not dry enough. The other grain buyer would not even look at it. I drove to Jake Sasse's livery barn, put the team in, fed the horses some of the wheat and crept up in the hay-loft, where a number

of farmers were lodging for the night. In the morning I paid twenty-five cents for the team, all the money I had and, hungry, started for home with my wheat. I arrived in the evening and never shall forget the expression on my mother's face, when she realized that I had brought home neither money nor the provisions, so badly needed.

Other settlers made the same trips with their ox-teams. They generally left home in the evening, travelled all night, and reached Grand Island the next day in time to sell their grain before evening. The trip home required the following day and night. Some raised a few hogs. Having no other market, they butchered them and took them to Grand Island, where they were offered one and a half cents per pound. I sold eggs at 5 cents per dozen and good butter at 5 cents per pound.

Our county and the farmers therein were obliged to endure another crisis in later years, that of drouth. The year 1893 was quite dry, crops were light, but the year following was memorable. There was not enough moisture even in the spring and no crops at all were raised. The farmers had to sell stock, for they had nothing to feed it, and many became impoverished. This drouth affected the whole state. Contributions were gathered in other states and a quantity of provisions and clothing sent and distributed. I was county clerk at the time and most of these supplies were sent to me and upon my responsibility. It was very difficult to distribute supplies among the right people. I never knew, until then, how low some people can sink, just to get something of which they were not nearly as needy as others. I spent many a sleepless night and got a great many more gray hairs while engaged in that office, from which I would have liked to have resigned, had it not appeared like cowardice. The only alleviating feature for me was the fact that Czechs behaved honorably in that trying time. Everyone who in any way participated in the distribution was subjected to suspicion, gossip and enmity and so I was very much surprised when the following campaign (my third candidacy for county clerk, when

I was the only candidate on my ticket), resulted in my election by a nice majority.

Conditions have changed greatly. Groves were planted by the farmers and good buildings erected. Howard County looks much different today. However, these improvements represent but a small fraction of the wealth dug out of the soil by the diligent hand of the pioneer and the largest portion of it has been sent across the Missouri River for the enrichment of the industrial east.

My father used to entertain very optimistic ideas about the United States. That and his desire to escape the oppressive Austrian rule and its militarism prompted him to emigrate. But the hardships of pioneer life, to which he brought us from a comparatively comfortable home, broke his heart and he took no interest in anything after the first two years.

There are less than half a dozen of the old Czech pioneers left in Howard County. I was the youngest of the first settlers and am a sort of connecting link between them and the younger generation. Some left Howard County, but much the larger number have found rest there, that rest of which they had so little during their lifetime. They sleep in the several cemeteries, whose somewhat neglected appearance makes one wonder whether those of the younger generation realize or appreciate the work of the pioneer men and women, whose suffering and sacrifices made possible the advantages and comforts their descendants enjoy today."

Czechs in Howard County live in and about St. Paul, Elba, Cotesfield and Farwell.

Valley County – 1877

The first Czech homesteaders settled in Valley County in 1877, in Geranium and Michigan Townships, and that was the nucleus of the large settlement now spreading over Valley, Custer and Garfield counties, numbering 600 —700 families. The larger part of these live in and about

Ord, Valley County, the vicinities of Elyria, North Loup and Arcadia being comparatively small. In Custer County they live in the vicinity of Sargent (about 60 families) and Comstock (75 families), both towns lying near the boundary of Valley County. In Garfield County they are scattered over a large territory and have practically no community life excepting the 50—60 families living in and around Burwell, which meet with those in Valley County and use their cemeteries.

John Zabloudil

Matěj Vacek, son of Martin Vacek of St. Paul, Nebr., explored the country in 1876 and told his friends it would be a good place in which to settle. The next year, 1877, with his father and brother Jacob they took homesteads, in Michigan and Geranium townships.

1877—The Following Came, Besides the Vaceks:

John Voborník; John Zabloudil was born April 20, 1852, in Humpolec, Bohemia, where he married and then emigrated to this country. He farmed in Valley County and was a prominent worker in patriotic and lodge activities. About 1903 he moved to Oklahoma and died there April 13, 1913, but was buried in Ord, in accordance with his wishes. John Vališ; Václav Študlar, born in Kralovice, Prachatice; Matěj Vávra, born in Dříteň, Budějovice; Frank Vávra, same place.

1878—The Following Came:

Joseph Ptáčník, born in Výhlava near Budějovice. He came from Spillville, Iowa. He and John Vališ helped to establish the Catholic parish and cemetery in Netolice (Geranium).

John Rybín, Ostašovice, Kostelec, came from Jackson County, Iowa; Frank Vopat, born in Chotina, Plzeň; Vojtěch Hošek, born in Dasny, Hluboká, came from Wisconsin.

Joseph Ptáčník

1879—The Following Came:

John Beran, born in Sendražice, Kolín. He came by wagon from Minnesota. He established the postoffice Sedlov, in n. e. quarter 5-19-16, Geranium Township, and was postmaster there for six years; Joseph Princ, Zboř, Pacov; Joseph Černý, came from Linwood, Butler County; John Flieder; Joseph

and Paul Žurek, born near Vyzovice, Nový Jičín; Joseph Pacas, born in Následovice, Ždánice. Living now in Garfield County. Charles Severin, Hlinsko, Chrudim. He came from Schuyler; Václav Holoun, Chrtice, near Čáslav. Came to Omaha in 1874. Matěj Beroun, Jaroměřice, Morava; Frank Hošek, born in Dasny, Hluboká. Came from Spillville, Iowa. Joseph Stára, Bahno, Kutná Hora; Fr. Scheinost, Usilov, Nová Kdyně; Louis Dohnal, Vítěřov, Ždáňice; Joseph Skolil, Pavlov, Unhošt; Charles Svoboda, Jaroměřice, Brno.

F. Dvořák and wife

1880—The Following Came:

Václav Mottl, born in Chrtice near Čáslav. He preempted for $100, and used to walk sixty miles to Howard County, to work. Charles Česák, Nebylov, Blovice, came from Iowa; Matěj Novotný, Přečice, Třeboň, came from Iowa; Joseph Kokeš, Bělá, Telč, father of Vincent Kokeš, one of the first Czech inhabitants of Ord and county clerk for three terms.

1881—The Following Came:

Vojtěch Lukeš, M. Pořížanky, Vltavotýn, came from Spillville, Ia.; Joseph Valášek, Želichovice, Vyzovice; Andrew J. Křikač, Lužany near Přeštice, later one of the first Czech settlers in Custer and Cheyenne Counties, now living in Butte, Boyd County; Vojtěch (Albert) Parkos, Podoly, Písek, came to St. Louis in 1877; Matěj Klíma, born in Sobědráž, near Tábor, came to Conover, Iowa, in 1873, to St. Paul, Nebr., by rail, then by ox team. Lost part of his property in 1882 by a prairie fire. He arrived with family the winter following the heavy snow, when the Union Pacific bridge had been carried away in the spring, so they crossed over the temporary bridge made of rope.

John Beran and wife

Ignác Klíma, a son of Matěj Klíma, was born July 21, 1869, in Bohemia and died in Ord, Nebr., January 1, 1923. He was fourteen years

of age when he accompanied his parents on their way from Conover, Iowa, to Nebraska, in a prairie schooner. A year after their arrival the father died and Ignác, though little more than a child, became his mother's sole support. Thus he can be considered a pioneer also, for he helped to till the virgin prairie and take the produce to North Loup, the nearest railroad station, by ox team. On February 25, 1892, he married Miss Mary Vodehnal and fourteen children were born to them. Ignác Klíma left the memory of a good patriotic and lodge worker.

Ignác Klíma

1882—The Following Came:

Jacob Kosmata, born 1838 in Litohradice, came to Conover, Iowa, in 1866, to Howard in 1882, still living; Thomas Vodehnal, born in Seč, Skuč, Chrudim, came to Iowa in 1874; Matěj Vandas, Dívčice, Hluboká; Joseph Hrdý, born in Velenov, Nalžová, came from Kansas.

1883—The Following Came:

Joseph Klát, Litomyšl, came to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1877; John Valášek, Želichovice, Vyzovice; Bartholomew Křikač, Lužany near Přeštice.

Joseph Stára

1884—The Following Came:

Matěj Parkos, Podolí, Písek; John Pecka, born 1833 in Prague, came to Calmar, Iowa, about 1864, living; Václav Parkos, Podolí, Písek; Matěj Scheinost, Usilov, Nová Kdyně; Frank Benda, Třebenice, near Písek; John Benda, same; John Sedláček, Dlouhá Louka near Přeštice, living.

1885—The Following Came:

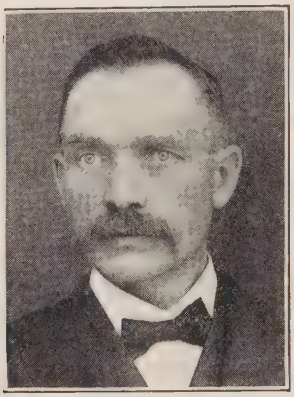
Jacob Hvězda, Hradiště, Nová Kdyně; Joseph Polák, Michalovice, Ledeč; Joseph Mareš, Radíč near Tábor; Anton Koupal, Sedlovice, Netolice. He came to Indiana in 1868, and was the father of Frank Koupal, county and district court clerk.

Other Old Settlers Were:

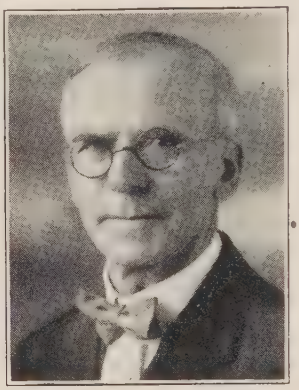
Joseph Trubl, Křtěnov, Vltavotýn; Martin and Frank Papoušek, Volešná, Třeboň; George Šesták, Zimoř, Mělník; Václav Urban; Václav and John Kluna; Frank and Louis Kamarád, Jihlavka, Telč, Jihlava; John Mareš, Radíč, near Tábor; John Fisher, Lukavec, Pacov.

The first Czech inhabitants of Ord, the county seat, were—Joseph Slobodný, who first dealt in agricultural implements and horses, later had a saloon and then moved to St. Paul. He was born in Ponědraž.

Frank Miško, born in County Hlinsko, came to Minnesota in 1876 and after marrying Mary Rayman they came to Ord in 1882. He



Frank Miško



Vincent Kokeš

established a harness shop there and is still active, helping his sons. Member of city council and prominent in civic life.

Vincent Kokeš, born in Bělá, County Pelhřimov, March 16, 1866. He studied in Telč, Moravia, came to America in 1881, directly to Ord, where at the time but two Czechs, Joseph Slobodný and John Lukeš, were living. They moved away shortly, only Kokeš remaining. He worked two years in a drug store, then in other towns until 1887, when he returned and conducted his own drug store until 1893. He was elected county clerk that year and served six years, the first Czech county official. Then he became cashier of the Ord State Bank for six years and for fourteen years was president of same. In 1892 he married Miss Lydia Ledvina of Wahoo and has one son, now assistant cashier in a bank in Scotia, Nebraska.

Frank Dvořák, who came in 1886 from Schuyler and has been a prominent business man for many years.

The country about the North and Middle Loup rivers began to attract settlers as early as 1870-1871, but none settled in that vicinity until 1872 and then some left. These

first settlers lived along water courses, water being a most important consideration. There is water in every foot of land in that country, but it is so-called "sheet water" and the rivers absorb it. Water is found in many layers of sand, gravel and sandstone, but as the land rises above the water courses, it is harder to get and sometimes very deep wells must be dug. The homesteaders did not have the money to overcome this difficulty, so the higher lands remained unoccupied longer than did those lower and nearer streams. Many of the first Czech homesteaders took timber claims, just to hold them for their friends, and then left the country. This was true of the Vaceks and others from St. Paul, Howard County.

THE BLIZZARD OF JANUARY 12, 1888

In all of the fifty-six years since this country began to be settled, there was never as severe a blizzard as that of 1888. Venel Křikač Sr., now living in Comstock, who has furnished data for the history of this county, writes:

"I had often heard of bad blizzards, but this outvied them all in the suddeness with which it came, the velocity of the wind, the severity of the cold, and the amount of snow on the ground and in the air. H. W. Foght, in his book 'The Trail of the Loup', says: 'The storm struck Burwell at 12:35 M and the thermometer fell to 25 degrees below zero by four o'clock P. M.' Seventeen farmers in Valley County sought shelter in haystacks, but not one person in that county perished. Fifteen people froze in Custer County. I was out in that storm and remember it well. The day was cloudy, as if snow might fall, but balmy, so that many people were away from homes after their business. Our postoffice was Sedlov, two miles north, and six miles east was the postoffice Geranium. There was a small store there, where we went at times in winter. A road led from my house about forty rods east, where it connected with the public highway going south. About 120 rods along this highway is a section corner, where roads cross each other. On the opposite corner stood a frame district-school building. The road east from there was used when going to

John Kulhanek's farm near Ansley, Custer County, in eighteen-eighties. Roofs covered with blue joint grass

Louis Vančura's farm in Valley County at the present time. Originally the Matěj Klíma homestead

Geranium. Thus, the road from our house led 120 rods north and 40 rods west. I was to go to Geranium that day and after an early lunch my brother Andrew and I set out, the younger children being in school. The ground was covered with snow fallen some time before, and as we started, snow was again falling in large flakes, but soon stopped. As we glanced to the northwest, we did not see anything unusual, except that the clouds were somewhat darker. We had gone about 70 rods east of the school when I happened to look up and saw great clouds of snow advancing with the rapidity of flames. In an instant we were covered by it and turned home. The noise of the wind and driving snow was so great that no other sound could be heard. It was certainly louder than we hear, sitting by an open train window, when one train rapidly passes another. We reached home safely, but remembered then the children in school. We had left the wagon near the sod barn, but it was impossible to harness the horses, on account of the wind. We put them back in the barn and drew the wagon close against a frame granary, where we finally succeeded in harnessing the team to a wagon with a double box and I set out. The public highway south was only 18-20 feet wide and on the east of it was a high cornfield, which helped in directing me. I took all the children except two and the teacher (they too reached home in safety) and resumed the homeward journey, along the cornfield, although I had to wipe my eyes continually, being blinded by snow. My brother met me and took the reins out of my stiff hands. Although he stood not more than eight feet away from the wagon, I had not seen him, nor knew he was there until he shouted. When I changed my clothes at home, I found fine snow even on my underwear."

A deep snow fell during the winter of 1880-1881. It was impossible to get anywhere with a team. There was a watermill in Ord, ten or twelve miles distant, but when the water froze, naturally it did not work and this was true of other mills down the river. Owing to the condition of the roads, it was impossible to convey flour from Grand Island. The first brought from there in the spring was gone

in a few moments and a Czech, Joseph Princ, carried a fifty-pound sack sixteen miles to his family, for even then it was impossible to get to Ord with a team. Some of the first Czech homesteaders used to walk to Howard County, indeed some even to Omaha. John Rybín made the latter trip several times. Frank Kříž walked from Custer County to Omaha and back a number of times.

Gage County – 1877

When the first half of the Otoe Indian Reservation in this county was opened to white settlers, Frank Horský was the first to settle there. Mr. Horský, a nephew of Joseph Horský (of whom mention is made in "The Vanguard of The Czech Pioneers") was born in Kostelec nad Orlicí, Bohemia. He came to this country in the early seventies, going to his uncle, who had moved to Helena, Montana, in 1863. Frank Horský experienced there the real "wild west" and his daughter, Mrs. Frank Havel of Omaha, who has supplied this biography of her father, regrets that no record of those experiences has been made. Her father was a quiet man and did not speak much of the past. Horský did not like Montana life and returned to his native land. On his way east he stopped in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where J. J. Dvořák asked him to convey to his (Dvořák's) sister two rings as gifts. This Horský did and thereby became acquainted with his future bride. Mary A. Dvořák was born in Dlouhá Ves

Frank and Mary A. (Dvořák) Horský

near Rychnov. They were married and in May, 1877, came to the United States. They spent that summer in Saline County and in the fall of 1877 set out from Wilber by wagon for Gage County, where Horský bought a farm from a Mr. Lau, near a now extinct town called Charleston. Both families were obliged to spend the winter in a very small abode—a common occurrence in those days. Horský stayed on this farm until 1883, when he bought government land near Barneston. In 1896 they moved to Wilber, Saline County, having retired from farming and Horský died there in 1901, his wife in 1906.

Among Those of the Earliest Settlers Were:

Joseph Hybl Sr., born in Kbele, near Nové Benátky; Joseph Pecka, same birthplace.

These and other settlers of that time paid $3.00 per acre for land. The only town in the vicinity was Blue Springs, but they used to trade in Beatrice.

Other Early Settlers Were:

Frank Bartoš, Počítky, Žďár, Moravia; Vojtěch Bednář, Pistina, Jindřichův Hradec; Frank Bureš, Týniško, Vysoké Mýto; Matěj Bořík, Oujezd, Přeštice; Anton Beran, Bujesily, Zbirov; Joseph Cacek, Kbele, Nové Benátky; John Chyba, Krucemburk, Chotěboř; Matěj Červený, Mýto. Hořovice; Václav Chadima, Bor, Litomyšl; Martin Fišer, Simburk, Turnov; Fr. Husa, Dobřejice, Hluboká; John Hroch, Ostašovice, Kostelec; Joseph Hirmon, Svatý Kříž, Rokycany; Václav Hirmon, same; Joseph Hájek, Lažovice, Hořovice; John Hájek, Lažovice, Hořovice; Joseph Novotný, Oujezdec, Litomyšl; John Novotný, same; Frank, Anton, Matěj and Václav Přibyl, Rakolusky; Václav and Frank Shalla, Sviná, Zbirov; Joseph Škrabal, Locina, Plzeň; Fr. Šístek, Vývanov, Zbirov; Frank Shanek, Stebuzoves, Vlaším; Vojtěch (Albert) Skočdopole, Humpolec; Fr. Tejčka, Polikno, Jindřichův Hradec; W. Weiner, Strážek, Bystřice; John Vitouš, Kříse, Rokycany; Fr. Vlasák, Spletený Újezd, Unhošt; Joseph Synovec, Lhotka, Železný Brod; Frank Seidl Sr., Tanwald, Mladá Boleslav.

Birthplace Unknown:

Václav Krotz, Václav Karel, Frank Kořínek, Joseph Mertlík, Václav Musil, Thomas Melichar, Václav Melický, Mr. Plevka, Jacob Rada, Joseph Votroubek.

Two years later the other half of the reservation was opened near Barneston and settlers poured in rapidly. This land was sold by the government at $6.00 to $25.00 per acre. Sod houses prevailed, as usual in those times. Farm

products sold in Beatrice as follows: Corn 17 cents per bushel, eggs 5 cents per dozen, and an old chicken could not be sold at any price. However, once in a while a buyer was found who paid $1.50 for a dozen. The first mill was in Blue Springs, where settlers took grain in wagons of their own manufacture, the wheels being slices of tree trunks.

At present there are 92 farms owned by Czechs and 40 families living in the towns, mostly in and around Wymore, Barneston and Odell, some few around Beatrice and Virginia.

Red Willow County – 1878

The first to settle here were John Horký (born in Strážek, Bystřice, Sept. 24, 1845, died May 22, 1919, and buried in Indianola) and Joseph Dudek, born in Dlouhá Ves, Rychnov. They came in about 1878, Horký settling near Indianola and Dudek near McCook.

John Horký with family and his brother Ferdinand settled on a claim and had quite a struggle. There was no money and no work, many people left the country. Horký got employment on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad and was thus able to buy a yoke of oxen, but one drowned and the other broke his neck. His wife left their five-year-old boy with him and went to Lincoln, to work as a servant and earn a little money. What little Horký raised he could not sell, for corn was 12 cents per bushel, eggs 3 and 4 cents per dozen, butter 5 and 8 cents per pound, hogs 3 cents pound live weight. They had to take these products a long distance to market and then got so little. Work was so scarce that they had to walk a hundred miles to find it during harvest, at $1.00 per day, but the day had no fixed hours. Later conditions improved.

This county has never had Czech settlements of any size. In the early nineties the following were living there:

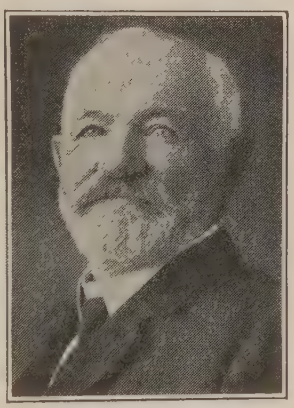
P. O. McCook:—Rosalie Mach, born in Biskupice, Krumlov; Marie Křovínek, Borotín, Vranovice.

P. O. Indianola:—Frances Braun, Věžná, Bystřice; Frank Císař, Věžná, Bystřice; Joseph Kroupa, Byšovec, Moravia; George Málek, Uherský Slovan; Joseph Kavalec, Popůvky, Znojmo; Joseph Pícha, Sušice; Joseph Císař, Věžná, Bystřice.

It is in this county that the monument stands that was erected to the memory of Czech pioneers who were drowned while on their way further west. This incident is related in the history of Butler County, whence they came.

Buffalo and Sherman Counties – 1878

The Czech colony here covers parts of both counties. In April, 1878, Frank Fiala (born in 1843 in Hořelice, living in Ravenna) came to Omaha from his home in Iowa City, Iowa. At that time much was being written about Nebraska, especially by John Rosický, who in his weekly Pokrok Západu urged his countrymen to hasten before all the good lands were gone. V. L. Vodička was also active as land agent for the Burlington & Missouri Railroad Company. Fiala knew Rosický personally and upon his advice and that of Edward Rosewater he went to Sherman County with Vodička. From Kearney they went by team to inspect the land, getting as far as Loup City in Sherman County. Then Fiala went to Grand Island and had plats made of Township 11, there being still plenty of unsettled lands. Upon his return to Omaha he conferred with Rosický and Rosewater about founding a Czech colony. He returned to Iowa City and told his friends to read what the Pokrok Západu would have to say about his trip and the lands, and in two weeks set out with his stepfather Joseph Horák (born in Hořelice near Unhošt) and brother-in-law Václav Nový (born in Všenice, near Rokycany). They took claims in Sherman County, a mile from the boundary of Buffalo County, in which latter county



Frank Fiala

Sod house of Frank Fiala

lies the large Czech colony, the town of Ravenna being its center. Settlers came slowly at first, in spite of the fact that Fiala continually published communications in the Pokrok Západu regarding the opportunity. At that time the Otoe Indian Reservation in Gage County had been opened and Czechs turned their steps there. However, within five years the colony about Ravenna had grown to a goodly size.

1879—The Following Came:

John Horák, born in Hořelice; Paul Miller, born in Mutějovice near Rakovník; John Helebrant, born in Radnice near Rokycany; Joseph Březina, born in Pacov, county of Tábor; B. Bugno.

1880—The Following Came:

Frank, Václav and Čeněk Kutička, brothers, born in Štěchovice, near Strakonice.

These came to Buffalo County: Václav Hervert; Frank Vokoun, born in Slatina near Kralovice; Václav Skala, born in Selčany near Tábor; Václav Polka, born in Litohlavy near Rokycany; Fr. and Joseph Kříha, born in Vičiny, near Tábor.

While this settlement has never grown a great deal larger, it has always held its own and Ravenna has a goodly percentage of progressive businessmen among the Czech nationality.

Czechs live and used to live in the vicinity of the following towns or postoffices: Ravenna, Rockville, Pleasanton, Nantasket (first named Trocnov, in honor of the birthplace of the famous Hussite warrior Žižka), Gibbon, Luce and St. Michael.

A. V. Hlava

Madison County – 1878

This also is a county of smaller settlements.

1878—The Following Came:

John Ducháček, being the first, born in Jehnědí, Litomyšl; John Dvořák, Mláka, Třeboň; Václav Vaněk, Čijevice, Kralovice; Václav

Skala, Poříčany, Český Brod; Joseph Daněk; Václav Beneš, Březnice, Písek; Joseph Dudek, Marovec, Nová Kdyně; Václav Skala settled in Madison, where he plied his trade of tailor. John Skala took a homestead near Battle Creek.

In the early eighties, through the efforts of V. L. Vodička, a larger settlement was effected, one of the first to come, in 1881, being Joseph Štorek, born in Malé Přítočno, Unhošt.

Czechs live in and around Madison, Newman Grove, Norfolk, Hale and Chloe (the two latter have been discontinued as postoffices).

Custer County – 1878

The first Czechs here settled in the Elm Creek valley, south of Ansley. Among them were:

1878—The Following Came:

Joseph Jelínek, born in Šamikovice, Moravia. He came to Saunders County with his parents in 1871.

1879—The Following Came:

John Kulhánek.

1880—The Following Came:

Anton Dobeš, born in January 13, 1861, in Rouchanovy, Moravia. He came with his parents to Butler County in 1871. In 1879 he selected a homestead in Custer County, making several trips by wagon to and from there. His nearest neighbor was four miles away, Kearney the nearest town. He became well-to-do and prominent and is living in Ansley.

1881—The Following Came:

Frank Kobl, born in Kolnice, Moravia, in 1837, living on homestead; Frank Dobeš, brother of Anton, living in Ansley.

1884—The Following Came:

Anton Fortin.

1885—The Following Came:

Joseph Bubák and Joseph Hromas.

1889—The Following Came:

Frank Tomšíček, Frank Diviš and Mr. Petřík; Mr. Vincent J. Štědrý, who came with his parents to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1854, from Horní Cerekev, Pelhřimov, and to Watertown, Wisconsin, in

1870, then in 1879 to Saline County (where he taught school), took a homestead in Custer County in 1883, near Broken Bow, where he lives.

The first Czech settlers took lands east of Sargent and north of Comstock. The upper part of Mira Valley, where Czechs first settled in Valley County, is bounded by a narrow line of hills on the west. They drop abruptly to the beautiful Wood Park valley, in which place Custer County begins. This valley joins with the valley of the Middle Loup river. The northwestern part of Mira Valley, which is in reality the upper part of Turtle Creek valley, where Custer County begins, rises and forms tablelands and rough rolling country. Inasmuch as the water here is deep and hard to get, the higher lands were not taken at first and that is why the later comers, the Czechs, settled on them.

Vincent J. Štědrý

The following made entry on homesteads in 1879, settled in 1880, but stayed long enough only to sell their rights to others:

Joseph Gruber, who came from Kutná Hora to New York in 1872, to Howard County in 1878. His sons Anton and Frank; Anna Čížek, who came also from Kutná Hora to New York in 1871, to Howard County in 1878; Joseph Žurek came in 1880, but he stayed; Ondřej J. (Andrew) Křikač came in 1881. Born in Lužany near Přeštice.

1882—The Following Came:

Martin Veverka, born in Tečice, Rosice. He used to walk to Omaha to work, his family living on the claim, which lay high up and he had to haul water a great distance, or use surface water in ponds. He helped to build on his farm one of the deepest wells in that part of the country, 204 feet. Thomas Stone dug it.

Joseph Krbel, born 1837 in Hluboká, County Brno, died in Omaha in 1923. He had a well 205 feet deep on his farm. Frank Scheinost

dug the first 100 feet and A. J. Křikač the remaining 105 feet. Frank Kříž, born in Lhotice. Used to walk to Omaha to work. Joseph Klanecký, born in Dolní Krupá. Came to this country in 1874, to Omaha in 1877.

1883—The Following Came:

Jacob Voráček, born in Domažlice, came to Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1865. He came to Custer County by wagon, he and his family being nearly drowned when fording the creek northwest of Cotesfield. The horse and wagon were borne along by the current, but the animals caught hold of the opposite bank, which threw the wagon up on the ground. Václav Štěpán, born in Horní, N. Brod. He came from Omaha, but was driven away by the drouth. Joseph Mach, born in Brtník, Manetín.

Vencl Křikač Sr.

1884—The Following Came:

John Nedbálek, Lípa, Holešov; Joseph Rejda, Lípa, Holešov; Fr. Vaněk, Svratka, Hradešín; Frank Vodehnal, Seč, Litomyšl. Came with family to Iowa in 1876. Joseph Fajmon Jr., who came with his father, Joseph Fajmon Sr., to Saunders County in 1871. The elder Fajmon was born in Moravia. Václav Klůna, came with parents to Dardanelle, Arkansas, in 1877; Jacob Buršík, Tečice, Rosice. Moved to Oregon. Vavřinec Novák, Archlebov, Ždánice, Joseph Štefka. Bought homestead from Joseph Pacas. John Drobný, born in Makov in 1842. Bought homestead of Joseph Žurek.

1885—The Following Came:

John Klapal, Velká Byteš, Moravia; Frank Koloušek, Zvol, Bystřice; John Peňas, Dlouhý, Nové Město; Václav Hejsek, Šimanov, N. Brod; Joseph Kříž, Lhotice, Náměšť; Joseph Rejthard, Naloučany, Náměst; James Halouška came in 1888. Born in 1845, came to Butler County in 1878.

Other Early Settlers Were:

Joseph Badalík, Dlouhé, Nové Město; Mat. Pazderka, Střítež, Pacov; Frank Chalupa; Joseph Týnský.

By 1880 all the homesteads and best railroad lands in eastern and central-eastern Nebraska had been taken and new colonies were being formed further west. They grew out of those already established, being augmented by only an exceedingly small percentage of immigrants direct from the native land. Naturally these settlements never

reached the proportions of those in the eastern half of the state, where the soil is more fertile.

Those who settled in the middle west, and those who later settled in the extreme west, had to struggle not only with poorer soil, but with drouth and scarcity of drinking water and timber. Western Nebraska is adapted to stock raising, and this was particularly true of it thirty years ago. Czech farmers are grain farmers and do not easily take to anything else. They tried to raise grain in western Nebraska and met with bad results. In fact, the drouths of the early nineties, especially the terrible year of 1894, drove them out in large numbers and a big percentage never returned. Our state legislature had a special session in 1894, to authorize financial aid for the farmers, so great was their suffering. Czechs in other parts of the country gathered money, clothing and provisions to help their countrymen in western Nebraska. The settlements there dwindled considerably as a result of that catastrophe, but the people who stayed and adapted themselves to the country have prospered.

Boone, Boyd, Brown and Holt counties, the history of which follows, belong to the group of central-western counties; Box Butte, Chase, Cheyenne, Dawes, Hayes, Perkins, Sheridan and Sioux to the more extreme western part. The history of Garfield, Pierce, Seward, Stanton and Thayer counties comes in order here chronologically, but they do not belong to the same locality, with the exception possibly of Garfield.

Perkins and Chase Counties – 1880

Czechs began to settle in Perkins County in 1880 and suffered great hardship. The women and children stayed on claims while the men went one hundred miles, sometimes afoot, to get work in the east, on railroad construction. The women yoked a pair of oxen to a wagon, put a barrel in it and went as far as eight miles for water, getting it usually from a creek. The barrel was covered, to keep out the dust,

and the water used for drinking purposes. There were no stores, but a certain farmer kept flour and groceries. One Bohemian woman had four little children and as her husband was absent, she used to walk sixteen miles for provisions. She had to take her baby along and thus proceed on her dreary journey. In summer, under scorching skies, the trip was severe.

John Nehřiva, born in Ketkovice, Moravia, came in 1880, with his wife, born Marie Svoboda. Both died in 1924.

Mrs. Frances Vančura

In that year, too, came John Teplý, born in Hartíkovice, Moravia, with his family. He died too in 1924.

In 1893 when Mrs. Frances Vančura, now living in Elsie, came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Krchal and the families of Joseph and John Nováček (twenty-three in all), there were about forty Czech families living in the vicinity, mostly in sod houses. That spring Mrs. Vančura saw corn piles about each farm, proving that the year preceding (1892) must have been productive. People were gay, especially the young folks, who often swept a space before the sod house, sprinkled it with water to lay the dust, and to the sounds of an accordion made merry with dancing. The year 1893 was not so good, 1894 meant a total failure, 1895 brought drouth and people suffered terribly. Homesteads were being opened in Oklahoma, North Dakota and Canada and many left, only twelve families remaining. At the present time there are about twenty-five families living in the vicinity.

Stanton County – 1880

The settlement here is really a part of that in Colfax County and is situated in the southern half, in the vicinity

of Haymow and Stanton. A great many Czechs living here have as their postoffice address Howell and Clarkson, in Colfax County. The colony about Haymow consists of settlers who originally located in Dodge and Cuming Counties. The first to settle here were Václav Hobl, born in Kutná Hora, Čáslav, who came in 1880.

In 1881 came Charles Svoboda, born in Fryšava, Nové Město, who later lived in Clarkson.

Soon after that came the following and were the nucleus of the colony:

Anton Souček, born in Chotovice, Litomyšle; Anton Kubík, Zderaz, Skuč; Joseph and Frank Tejkl, Bystrce, Lanškroun; Frank Pěkný, Veselí, Tábor; Anton Urbánek, Bystrce, Lanškroun; Joseph Valla, born in Wisconsin; Alexander Hampl, Frenštat, Nový Jičín; Frank Barták, Barchovice, Kouřím.

Holt County – 1880

A large percentage of the early settlers in this county came from Colfax County.

Mr. and Mrs. John Zahradníček

1880—The Following Came:

In May of that year John Zahradníček (born in V. Římov, Třebíč), John Coufal (Přibyslavice, Třebíč) and Frank Dvořák (Lipník, Hrotovice), all came from Colfax County and took up land. They went back to Colfax County and on their return were accompanied by J. Zeman (Přibyslavice, Třebíč). These then were the first Czech settlers in Holt County. In this year too the following settled here: John Nožička (Budišov, Třebíč), Fr. Blažek (Přední Lhota, Čáslav) and Joseph Horáček (born Dec. 11, 1856, now living in Belgrade, Nance County).

In 1881 John Coufal went again to Colfax County and brought back with him a cara-

van of Czech settlers, among whom were his brother Matěj Coufal, Riegl, Tomšík and others.

1882—The Following Came:

Joseph Nikl, born in 1860 in Veverská Byteška, Moravia; Jacob Humpál, born in Újezd, Vltavotýn; Wenzl Šrámek, born in Okřesanec, Čáslav. This settler, after preempting and building a log cabin, had just $1.25 left with which to buy a sack of flour. Upon returning home after a few hours' absence, he usually found his abode adorned with a warning ordering him to vacate, but he braved it out and stayed.

Geo. Jonáš, with daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter.

1883—The Following Came:

John Bouška, born in Přijemky, Chotěboř; Frank Jonáš, born in Chýnava, Unhošt; George Jonáš, his brother, also from Chýnava, Unhošt, where he was born in 1852. He came to Schuyler in 1872, where he preempted. Living at date of writing.

1884—The Following Came:

John Baloun, born in Chrudim. Came from West Point, where he had worked as shoemaker; Frank Pácha, born in Klášterec; Frank Průša, born in Ctiněves, Roudnice. He came first to Iowa, then made entry in Nebraska City for a homestead in Saline County.

Frank Jonáš, in 1883, had written letters to be published in the weekly Slavie, telling about Holt County lands, which brought about twenty settlers there and founded the colony. Others followed and although at first they endured privations, for there was no mill and no timber in the vicinity, and the soil was not of the best, they persevered and stayed. Of the original pioneers at date of writing only about five are left, all in fair circumstances. In the early days the Žižka brothers owned a thresher and threshed for the rest. Some of those who lived there in the early nineties are as follows:

In the Town of Atkinson:

Frank Krajíček, Romovice, Čáslav; Anton Kavka, Osek, Strakonice; Joseph Vrzal, Korouhev, Chrudim; John Halámek, Ruda, Polička; John Pokorný, Boskův Týn, Znojmo.

In the Town of O'Neill:

Frank and John Sobotka, from Hluboká, Znojmo; John Fanta, same place.

P. O. Atkinson:

Ant. Kolena; John Liger, Čáslavice, Třebíč; John and Matěj Coufal, Přibyslavice, Třebíč; J. K., John and Anton Tomšík, Budišov, Třebíč; Alois (Louis) Dvořák, Mezilesí, Pelhřimov; John Jonáš, Colfax County; Frank Dvořák, Lipník, Hrotovice; John Husák, Budišov, Třebíč; Joseph Klimt, Čáslavice, Třebíč; Frank Bercha, Jemníky, Slané; Anton Ondráček, Chýnov, Tábor; Čeněk Novotný, Koloděje, Vltavotýn; John

A sod house in Nebraska

Novotný, Řišnice, Pelhřím; Frank Kaplan, Dolní Krupá, Německý Brod; Fr. Kožíšek, Dolejší Hradiště, Kralovice; Václav Krisl, Chotina, Plzeň; Joseph Dobiáš, Sokoleč, Poděbrady; Joseph Veškrna, Pozdatín, Třebíč; Vojtěch (Albert) Král, Chotina, Plzeň; J. Zahradníček, Římov, Třebíč; Fr. Mlynář, Klášterec, Žamberk; Anton Tázler, Kunvald, Žamberk; Anna Dobiáš, Sokoleč, Poděbrady; Joseph Friouf, Čekov, Zbirov; Joseph Mihulka, Helkovice, Žamberk; Frank Žižka Sr. and his brother, John, Kunvald, Žamberk; T., J. and F. Dobrovolný, all from Ratkovice, Hrot; Ferdinand Kodýtek, Klášterec, Kr. Hradec.

In and About Stuart:

Joseph Škrdla, Přední Lhota, Čáslav.

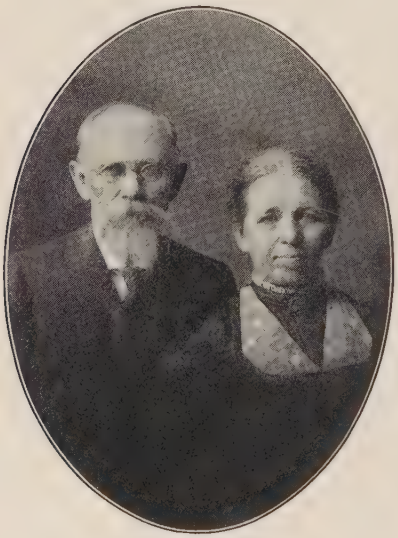
In and About O'Neill:

Joseph Dvořák; Václav Burda, Kačerov, Kralovice.

At present Czechs live in and about O'Neill, Atkinson and Stuart.

Boone County – 1880

In this county but a handful of Czechs have lived in Albion, and most of those were employed at different times by Joseph Papež, the tailor. Mr. Papež was born March 28, 1843, in Jetřichoves and came in 1867 to Wisconsin, where he worked at his trade. While so employed in Mauston, the towns of Lisbon and Mauston contested for the honor of being county seat and he cast the deciding vote, for Mauston, his first voting in this country. In 1868 he came to Omaha, crossing the ferry there. He worked as tailor and in March, 1869, took a homestead three miles north of Richland, in Colfax County, adjoining those of his half-brother John Stibal and cousin Frank Stibal. January 29, 1870, he married Miss Josephine Vodička, sister of V. L. Vodička and began housekeeping on the claim. They had scarcely moved in their home, a 12x14 structure with a lean-to, minus door, ceiling and plaster, when a record blizzard raged, lasting three days. The bread, wrapped in newspaper and clothing and placed in the trunk, froze. The stove had no damper, so all the heat went up the chimney. They would have frozen to death, had it not been for the featherbeds Mrs. Papež had brought from Bohemia. Furniture was made of rough boards and all the livestock they had was



Joseph and Josephine Papež

a kitten Mrs. Papež got in Omaha. But Mr. Papež tailored and Mrs. Papež made dresses for women and thus they soon earned enough to buy chickens, pigs and a cow. In 1872 they moved to Schuyler, where Mr. Papež established a tailor shop. In 1880 they left for Albion, travelling by stage from Columbus. Shortly thereafter the railroad was built through and the first train going east took the dead body of little Rose Papež, to be buried in Schuyler. After removing to Omaha in 1884 and back to Albion in 1885, Mr. Papež has lived there since. Both he and his wife are living, but his tailoring and clothing store is now conducted by his sons Edward B. and John S. Of the two daughters, Otilie is at home and Emilie B. teaches. January 29, 1926, Mr. and Mrs. Papež celebrated the 56th anniversary of their wedding. Mrs. Papež was born March 23, 1848, in Těchonice, Bohemia, and came to this country in 1869 with her sisters Dora Junek, Eleonora Vodička (later Mrs. Frank Mareš of Crete) and brother Frank Vodička, now living in Omaha. On August 19, 1869, they joined their brother Václav L. in Omaha, he having preceded them.

When Mr. Papež arrived in Albion in 1880, a Mr. Mašek and his wife were already there. Mrs. Mašek was a physician, having studied medicine in Prague and Paris, and was considered competent. Mr. Mašek was a farmer. They moved to Box Butte County.

In 1885 Frank Sodomka worked for Mr. Papež, later moving to Clarkson, where he died in 1924.

Other early settlers were: Vencl Burda and John Bílek, the latter born in Golčův Jeníkov.

John and Václav Hrnčál and Václav Bame, with families. Václav Hrnčál and Václav Bame later moved to Box Butte County.

In the early nineties the following were living there:

P. O. Albion:

John Fořt, born in Zderaz, Skuč.

P. O. Closter:

Joseph, Frank and Anton Hána, born in Dřinec; Joseph Hulec, born in Březí, Písek.

The following worked for Mr. Papež between 1886 and 1896, but did not stay because they missed Czech social life:

Jacob Černý, John Tvrz, Frank Pelan, Albert Kubíček (born in Komárek, Bechyň), Sylvester Suchánek, Frank Kučera, Anton Doležal and Čeněk Vyskočil. Anton Suchánek Sr. is still living there.

Thayer County – 1882

Another county of small settlements, about fifty families living there at present in the vicinity of Hubbell, Reynolds, Gilead, Alexandria, Belvidere and Hebron.

The first to come, of whom record is available, was Frank Komrs, who came in 1882. He was born in 1841, in Humpolec, where in 1865 he married Wilhelmina Rosický, sister of John Rosický, also born there, in 1839. In that year, 1865, they came to Wisconsin, where they farmed until 1871, when Komrs entered the grocery business in Chicago, with Rosický, but the great fire ruined their prospects. In 1882 Komrs and family came to Omaha, but city life did not appeal to them and so he bought 160 acres a mile south of what is now Gilead. At first crops were poor. The prairie lands were burned-over and the new growth of grass was not sufficient to prevent the ground heating too much. The newly-broken prairie land was so hot in summer that it was impossible to walk over it barefooted. All about them rain fell, but in their immediate vicinity drouth prevailed. However, in time, as with all pioneers, conditions improved. Komrs and his wife raised eight children, five of whom are living. He died in 1917, his wife in 1912 and are buried in the Gilead cemetery, the site of which he donated.

Frank Komrs

In 1883 came John Husa, born June 24, 1855, in Dobřejice, County Budějovice. He came to this country in 1869 and settled with his parents in Lancaster County. They experienced pioneer times there, for it was seventy-five miles to the nearest town and there was no work, money, cattle, horses or implements. There was enough land, but crops were scanty and even if they had been plentiful, there were no markets. In 1877 Husa sold out and bought land eight

miles west of Blue Springs, in Gage County. In 1879 he married Anna Brt (born in 1856 in Rybí Lhota near Soběslav). In 1882 he sold and a year later bought land one mile south of where the village of Gilead, Thayer County, stands. There was an error in the sale and he received in exchange land four miles northwest, where he farmed with success.

John Scheinost (Šajnost) also came in 1883. He was born May 15, 1839, in Úsilov, near Nová Kdyně. He was a member of the ill-fated expedition that set out under the Austrian Archduke Maxmilian for Mexico, which the Archduke hoped to conquer and become emperor. As students of history know, he failed and was executed by the Mexicans. Schainost then served as cook on several sailing vessels, thus spending some time at sea. Landing in New York, he came to Chicago, where he married Anna Huletz (Hulec). They farmed in Wisconsin seven years, whereupon they moved to Saline County, where they homesteaded. In 1883 they moved to Thayer County, where at date of writing Scheinost lives with his son Adolph.

Frank Hruška, who also came in 1883, was born in Lhota, Bechyně.

A. F. Bulín, who came in 1884, arrived in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1871. In 1877 he came to Crete, Saline County, and later bought 80 acres in Lancaster County, near Lincoln. In 1884 he sold and bought 160 acres in Thayer County, virgin prairie-land, but did not begin to farm it until in 1893. At present he has retired and is living in Gilead.

The Following Lived in This County in The Early Nineties:

P. O. Hubbell: Václav Červený, Podmokly, Zbirov; J. Levenburg, Vysoké Mýto, Chrudim; Frank F. Hruška, lived near Reynolds. His brother John near Gilead. Anton Šajnost, born in Úsilov Nová Kdyně, lived near Gilead; Václav Houser, born in Březí, Písek, and John Kuchař, born in Údraž, Písek, lived near Alexandria; Ludvík Sršeň, born in Chocenice, Čáslav, lived near Belvidere; Frank Prachař, born in Sopotnice, Litomyšl, lived near Hebron; Charles and Frank Slopanský, born in Chocen, Chrudim, lived in the town of Hubbell; Fr. Kašpar, born in Záměl, Kostelec nad Orlicí, lived in the village of Gilead.

Pierce County – 1883

A practically small number of settlers living in and about Plainview, Osmond and Pierce.

1883—The Following Came:

Frank J. Synovec, born in Lhota, Železný Brod, July 26, 1839, and died May 6, 1898. He settled eight miles west of Pierce. In 1866 he came to Milwaukee with his wife (born Antonie Krunsmiller, Sept. 2, 1842, in Semily) and in 1869 they moved to Saline County, where they lived fourteen years, enduring hardships common to pioneers. Mr. Synovec had been a blacksmith, which trade he practiced on his farm.

Frank and Mary (Zeman) Synovec

1884—The Following Came:

Martin Havel, born in Zahořany, Nová Kdyně. In 1865 he married Anna Spinka and in 1866 participated in the war between Prussia and Austria. In 1872 he moved with his family to Wisconsin and shortly thereafter to Omaha, where he worked on the Union Pacific bridge. In 1873 he moved to Saunders County, where he preempted, the nearest town being North Bend, twenty-five miles distant. He died March 16, 1921.

Frank Synovec, born in Zlatá Olešnice, Železný Brod, June 1, 1842. In 1863 he married Marie Zeman and in 1872 they came to Saline County, where they lived twelve years. In 1884 he rented near Pierce, the following year taking a timber-claim, where he lived until his death in 1912. The great blizzard of 1888 nearly destroyed his stock and poultry and the drouth of 1894 ruined all crops. Mrs. Synovec is living with her son in Pierce.

1886—The Following Came:

Frank Kratochvíl, born in Štrampouchy, Čáslav, in 1837, died March 3, 1897.

1887—The Following Came:

John Turek, born August 15, 1867, in Štrampouchy, Čáslav. Came to Butler County in 1886 and a year later to Pierce County. In 1889

he married Antonie Kratochvíl, who had come with her parents in 1886. When they were married, he had just $1.00 but lived to amass a competency.

Other old settlers, who were living there in the early nineties, were:

P. O. Plainview:

J. Hába, Chvalkovice, Čáslav; John, A., Frank, Joseph and Anton Hladík, Kosumburk, Vysoké Mýto; Adolph Krenk, Vrbice, Čáslav; John and Frank Fojt, Lhota, Dačice; Frank Šeda, Lhota, Dačice; Václav Čížek, Ledce, Mělník; Simon Kolář, birthplace unknown; John Hradský, Novosedla, Strakonice; Joseph Kotrouš, Volenice, Strakonice.

P. O. Pierce:

Emil Vrba, Hořovice, Praha; J. Kratochvil, Štrampouchy, Čáslav; F. L. Kšírek, Česká Třebová, Chrudim; Václav Kyn, County Plzeň; John Pospíšil, Hraběšín, Kutná Hora; Václav Vyhlídal, unknown; John and Frank Kaplan, Tatec, Kouřím; L. Kolářík, Únovice, Nová Kdyně; John Smola, Kozlov, Česká Třebová.

P. O. Foster:

Fr. Langman, Záhorčičky, Blatná; John Kubyšta, Dlouhá Třebová, Ústí nad Orlicí.

P. O. Osmond:

Thomas Sládek, Skráněice, Plánice; Frank Jelínek, Víska, Sušice; Joseph Štědrý, unknown; Joseph Kratochvíl, Štrampouchy, Čáslav.

P. O. Birch:

Frank Kubyšta, Dlouhá Třebová, Ústí nad Orlicí; Joseph Šimůnek, Věšín.

P. O. Randolph:

John Sarf, Branná, Jílemnice.

P. O. Colbergen:

Anton Sládek, Cerhovice, Hořovice.

The latter three postoffices, as so many other small ones, have been discontinued since the rural mail delivery system was installed.

Sheridan County – 1884

The first Czech settlers began to arrive here about 1884, shortly before the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad (now known as the Northwestern) was extended into the Black Hills. The larger number, however, began to come in 1886, after the railroad was built to Hay Springs. The north part of Sheridan County, the por-

tion extending from the Niobrara river to the boundaries of South Dakota, contains good soil, suitable for farming. In the early nineties there was a large Czech settlement there, but the drouth drove half of the people away. In those days a quarter section sold for $200.00. Indeed, it has been recorded that 160 acres were exchanged for a farm wagon. The southern portion embraces sand hills, lakes and meadows. These lakes contain potash, which was taken out of them during the World War. The Antioch Potash Plants were known all over the United States, but went out of existence with the close of the war. This southern portion was settled by several large ranchmen until the Kincaid law, allowing homesteaders to take up 640 acre claims, went into effect. At that time the sand hills became settled more thickly. Among the first Czech to take advantage of the Kincaid law was Joseph Fisher, who took a claim in 1908. He was followed by Joseph Drbal, Dr. Henry Juren, Nicholas Dukát, James Černý, Joseph Blažka, Joseph Bolek, Joseph Havlík and Wolf. Dukát and Havlík have large ranches, the others moved nearer town and are prospering.

B. J. Chalupa, born in Přehořov, near Soběslav, Tábor, and at date of writing living in Hay Springs, for two years after his arrival used to go to the Black Hills to work. Václav Dremza, Joseph Vybíral, Kruml and others went afoot to Omaha, for the same purpose. Chalupa hauled wood to town for $1.00 per cord, while now it brings $10.00. The people tried it out five or six years, then abandoned their claims, to the satisfaction of the large ranchmen, who were glad to have the farmers leave. Some returned, but not many. Those who did, are now doing well. For instance, Chalupa's son owns 1,780 acres and is worth over $50,000, and there are more like him. The lands now yield fairly well and the climate is healthful. Chalupa Sr. owns four quarters and would trade with nobody. The grass alone keeps stock fat.

One of the early settlers there, Fr. Cílek, came to Nebraska in 1874 from Winona, Minnesota. He arrived in Omaha, then went to Lincoln, which was reached by but one

train a day, a mixed train at that, part passenger and part freight. Lincoln was then a very small town. From Lincoln he went to Humboldt, where he met Frank Skalák. They decided to go to northwestern Kansas, and a company, consisting of Frank, Alois, Jacob, Václav and Leopold Skalák, their sister Mrs. Lang and Cílek, set out in seven covered wagons. They camped by a stream and were augmented by more, so there were twenty-five wagons in all. However, not all were Czechs. They made 300 miles in twenty-one days and took pre-emption claims in a settlement they called Big Timber. While these homesteaders planted some acres to corn and potatoes, they were more interested in buffaloes. Mr. Cílek remembers that on June 2nd (1874) they saw an immense herd, numbering thousands. The following day a violent wind storm came on, but in spite of that they got five head, so there was plenty of meat for the entire settlement. They returned to Humboldt for harvest, because Kansas suffered from a drouth so severe that there was no water in the streams and wells. Grasshoppers finished the devastation. After harvest they went back and on their way met a sad procession of Kansas homesteaders returning to their former homes,—driven out for good by the drouth and insects. After the fall sowing was done, Cílek and some of the others again went buffalo hunting along the Republican River. He became acquainted with a Frenchman, Henry Colclesser, and in his company hunted buffalo for three months. In 1877 Cílek settled in Howard County, as recorded elsewhere, and in 1888 in Sheridan County, where he still lives. In 1903 he met his buffalo-hunting companion Colclesser, now a miller, and renewed the old friendship.

Some of the early settlers, who lived there in the fore part of the nineties, were:

Frank and Joseph Mareček, Římovice, Habry; Frank Škoda, same birthplace; Jos. Mašek, Nové Dvory, Selčany; Fr. Kubát, Hadina, Humpolec; John Růžánek, unknown; J. F. Vorel, came from Iowa; Fr. Vomočil, Osek, Litomyšl; Adolph and Edward Kruml, unknown; Václav Písačka, Hostí, Vltavotýn; Václav Dremza, Vyskytná, Pelhřimov; Joseph Vybíral, Petrovice, Třebíč; Fr. Marek, Březany, Horaždovice; Martin Cílek, Soběslav, Veselí, Tábor; Anton Štěpánek, unknown; F. Šťastný, unknown; Václav and Mike Kuba, Zahrádka, Telč; Votruba, unknown; Joseph Bárta, unknown; Frank Bažil, Úboč, Nová Kdyně; Václav Kitz-

berger Sr., Domažlice, came from Iowa; Joseph Krejčí, Biskoupky, Zbirov; Frank Cílek, Soběslav, Veselí; Joseph Rvšavý, Hněvkovice, D. Kralovice; Joseph Heštěra, unknown; Jacob Bumba, Sr., Číhalin, Třebíč; Joseph Jirek, Roudná, Soběslav; M. Kocian, Dušков, Přeštice; Anton Kadleček Sr., Černejš, Vlašim; Frank Štáva, Hrotovice, Znojmo; Joseph Vodička, Chlumetín, Hlinsko; Fred Novotný, Kukle, Vodňany; Frank Hrabánek, Podveky, Kutná Hora; Joseph Prokop, Hrusice, Černý Kostelec.

Birthplace unknown: Joseph Baltizar, Louis Jančík, Joseph Peršík, Joseph Čermák, Najbert, Ed. Chalupa, Frank Svoma, Joseph and John Paul, Václav Novák Sr., F. and James Novák, Joseph Leníček, Joseph Bittner, Frank Černý, Mike Kučera, Frank Šťastný.

These and the rest lived in and about Box Butte, Rushville and Hay Springs. There are about forty Czech families in this county.

Box Butte County – 1885

As far as is known, the first Czech to inspect Sioux County, (of which Box Butte County is a portion) for settlement, was Alois (Louis) Civiš, who came in 1884. Upon his return to Belle Plaine, Iowa, his home, the following year he set out with his bride, followed by eleven families of Czech settlers.

Alois Civiš

In 1886 Box Butte County became a separate county and was so named because of a square box-shaped butte in the vicinity. Nonpareil, a little town now vanished and gone, was the first county seat. Later, when the Burlington & Missouri Railroad was built through, Hemingford became the county seat, and then that honor passed to Alliance, which town still retains it.

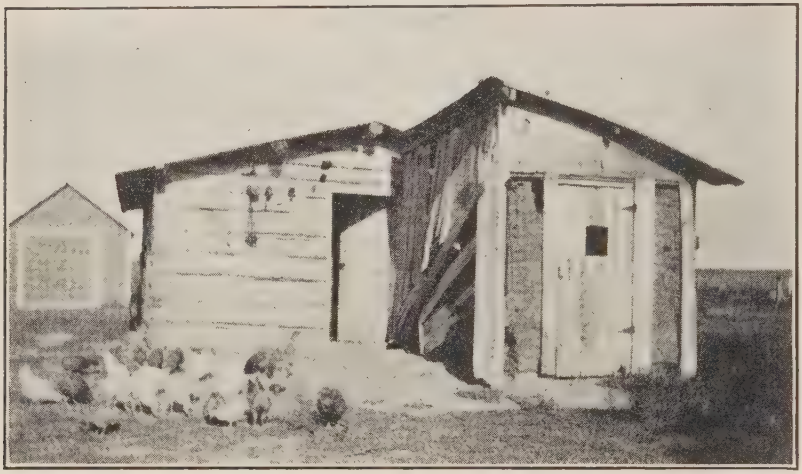
As stated elsewhere, after 1880, when homesteads and cheaper lands were all taken in eastern and central-eastern Nebraska, the western portion claimed attention of settlers, especially since they were entitled to threefold rights: homesteads, pre-emption and timber claims, so that many hoped

to take up three quarter-sections or 480 acres each. Many who came were men of mature years, who had owned 80 or 160 acres in the eastern part, but had large families and wanted to get land for their children. It had been rumored that beyond the bare and arid sandhills lay a fertile country, gently rolling, and the first settlers were enthusiastic. They wrote to their friends and in Czech newspapers and in one way and another drew others after them. Northeast of Hemingford was and still is a colony of Czechs, nearly all of whom came from one village in Moravia (Litostrov) or its vicinity. Another colony settled west of Hemingsford, the postoffice, now abolished, being Lawn.

The founder of the colonies in Box Butte County therefore was Alois Civiš, born in 1858 in Čeradice, near Slané died in Chicago in 1917. He had informed himself, through newspapers and government reports, that lands in this vicinity were to be opened to settlers, and had spent almost the entire summer of 1884 there, traversing afoot the whole northwestern corner of Nebraska, beginning about a hundred miles east of Fort Valentine. He examined the soil and made notations regarding everything that could be of use to settlers. Then he wrote letters to the Pokrok Západu and other Czech newspapers, receiving many inquiries from his compatriots and answering same. In this way his name became known throughout the middle west among his people.

Upon his return to Belle Plaine, Iowa, he interested a number of people so that the following spring some of his compatriots followed him. He himself started in March, 1885, with his bride. They came to Fort Valentine by rail, from there went by ox team to his homestead, situated about eight miles northwest of Hemingford. They met a group of Indians on the way, who offered Civiš two ponies for his wife, which offer, naturally, was declined. The young couple was afraid to continue and at night camped near a stream surrounded by a bit of timber. This they piled high and set afire, to serve them as a blind while they took another direction. Shortly thereafter they heard the Indians whoop and hid in a ravine until all was silent. The redmen were indeed looking for them, but did not find them.

Civiš's first abode was a hole in the ground, covered with a tent. In the fall he built a log house, which is still standing. He had to make several perilous journeys to Valentine for supplies. Once, during a blizzard which raged for two days and nights, he nearly perished. Fortunately he found a deserted cabin, in which there was a stove and a primitive bed. Wet to the skin and half frozen, he struck



First home of Alois Civiš, log house built in 1885

one damp match after another fruitlessly, until the very last emitted a tiny flame and his life was saved.

On April 11, 1885, the eleven families arrived, by ox teams from Valentine. Some came from Belle Plains, Iowa, but the majority from Butler County, Nebraska. They were the following:

Thomas Jelínek, born 1817, died 1889; His son John, born 1867 in Litostrov, Rosice, Moravia, as was his father. John Jelínek is living, has been county assessor for three terms. John Urbanovský, Příbram, Rosice; John Patočka, Příbram, Rosice; John Kovárník, Karolin, Moravské Budějovice; John Potměšil, Malé Opolany, Poděbrady; John Liška, Litostrov, Rosice; John Pláštík, same; Thomas Peltz and sons John and Henry, same; Frank Dočekal.

They camped ten days by streams where Joseph Procházka's farm is located, while they looked up and found their claims.

In 1885 and 1886 settlers began to come in groups, later they came singly. The only road there was the old Sidney Trail, from Sidney to Fort Robinson and on into the Black Hills. The Northwestern (or Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley) Railroad extended only to Valentine, the nearest town, and all the Czechs who came in 1885 had to go to and from Valentine by ox team, when hauling provisions, which required three to five days' time. In 1886 the Northwestern built to Hay Springs, fifty miles from Hemingford. The Burlington & Missouri railroad, through the center of the county, was built about 1888, at which time the country was well settled. There was no timber and settlers had to get wood from Dawes and Sioux Counties, which trip lasted two days and was very laborious, for there were no roads or bridges. Many of the first homes were dug-outs, later replaced by log or sod houses. Eight or nine miles northwest of Marsland lay a ravine or valley covered with a fine pine forest. Civiš found it and told his friends about it, and it furnished timber for the vicinity. It was called Bohemian Valley. With his brother Charles he found some shallow streams, which gave water to all the first settlers, for wells had to be dug 100 to 200 feet deep.

In the summer of 1885 Alois Civiš's brothers, Charles, Anton and Václav (all born in Čeradice) followed him and took claims adjoining his. Charles was a good carpenter and helped build railway stations on the Burlington road between Alliance and the Black Hills. He contracted typhoid fever at this work and died in 1888, aged thirty-two. In 1887 the parents (Václav Civiš and wife), born in Dožice near Plzeň, came and after them Joseph Civiš, a brother of Alois, born in Čeradice and his family came. Joseph Civiš was the father of Stanislav Civiš, born in Klobuky near Slané, now living in Hemingford and author of data for this county. Václav Civiš died in 1900, aged 73, his wife in 1898, aged 68. Joseph Civiš, after living in Nebraska eighteen years, returned to Bohemia, where he died in 1923 Other early settlers were:

1885—The Following Came:

Joseph Bárta Sr., born in Proseč, Habry. He came with horse team from Valentine. Died aged 74 years. His son Louis, who came with him (born in Proseč), still living. Louis' sons Louis and Joseph live on farms.

Joseph Bem (or Bame) came with his parents. Died in 1920, aged 62.

John Šabatka, born in Albrechtice, Vltavotýn. Moved later to South Dakota, where he died.

Joseph Šabatka, born also in Albrechtice, now living in Kansas.

Henry Šimek, born in Velká Řetová, Ústí nad Orlicí. He came from Wisconsin. Died in 1915.

Martin, Charles and John Pošvář, all born in Újezd, Moravské Budějovice. They came with their parents Matěj and Antonie Pošvář. The parents and John died in Box Butte County, Martin now lives in Thurston County, Nebraska, and Charles in Oregon.

Martin Pošvář

Alois (Louis) Zajíc, with his brothers John and Anton, all born in Zaječov, Hořovice, and their mother. Alois died in 1924, aged 70, his brothers moved to Minnesota, where they still live. Alois dug many wells.

Matěj Duchoň, born Feb. 11, 1826, in Tisov, Příbram, died in Box Butte County 1918. His sons Frank, Matěj, Joseph and John also took claims. His daughter Alžběta (Elizabeth) married Joseph Valta, who was born in 1859 in Žežice, Příbram, and also settled there in 1885. He died in 1919.

Joseph Bame Jr., born in 1863 in Lukovice, died in Omaha, 1923, after an operation.

John Morávek, born in 1849 in Slopnice near Litomyšl. He came with horse team all the way from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For three years he used to go to Cedar Rapids in the fall and returned in spring, in the same manner. Now living in Hemingford.

Charles Rendla, born in Nýřany, Plzeň. Lived later in Oklahoma and died in Buhl, Idaho.

1886—The Following Came:

Vincenc Dvořák and his wife Annastazie (sister of Václav Civiš). She died in 1896, he moved to South Dakota, where he died in 1912.

Joseph Turek, born in Nová Ves, Chotěboř, came from Omaha via Hay Springs. He died in South Dakota, aged 73.

Anton Chytka, born in Kozlany, Znojmo, came from Butler County. Living in South Dakota.

Václav Turek, born in Nová Ves, Chotěboř, came from Omaha via Hay Springs, whence he used to haul provisions with ox team. Still hale at 76.

Mike Šimek, born in Svinná, Veselí, came from Wisconsin. Living. Jacob Hovorka, from near Chrudim. Came from Wisconsin. Died in 1906, aged 64. His son Thomas was run over by a team in 1899 and killed.

John and Joseph Šebek, now in Iowa.

Joseph Waněk, born in 1862 in Čijevice, Kralovice. His father Václav was persecuted for his patriotic expressions and in 1863 came with his family to Wisconsin. In 1870 he took a claim near Madison, Madison County, Nebraska, making entry in the West Point Land Office. Joseph Waněk is living on the farm where the postoffice Lawn used to be. He was postmaster there for twelve years and served as county commissioner for three terms.

Matěj Krátký, born in České Budějovice, died in 1924; Vojtěch (Albert) Melmer; J. Syrový.

1887—The Following Came:

Vojtěch Chládek, born in Sadská, in 1857, died in Portland, Oregon, April 24, 1927. A very prominent Czech. In company with others he built a mill on the Niobrara River, conducted a store in Dunlap and later a cheese factory. He was postmaster in Dunlap and a force in political and social life, also something of a writer, contributing to the Czech farm paper Hospodář valuable articles in the form of a dialogue between a good and a lazy farmer.

Vojtěch Chládek

Joseph Plánanský Sr., born in Vestce, Nymburk. Came from Boone County, Nebraska, via Crawford. Died in 1894, aged 64. His sons Joseph and Václav living.

Joseph Kapr Sr., born in Bezděkov, Benešov. Came from Wisconsin. Died in 1921, aged 82. His son Frank died at the age of 45, sons Joseph and Jacob living.

Charles Tuček. Died many years ago. His wife Marie died in February, 1926, and his three sons live on farms.

Joseph Herrian, born in Březová Hora, Příbram. Living. John Pávek, from near Chrudim. Now in Oklahoma.

1888—The Following Came:

Joseph Bame Sr. (originally spelled Boehm and Bem), born in Lukavice in 1828. Came to Belle Plaine, Iowa, in 1871. Lived for eight years in Boone County, Nebraska, going then to Box Butte County, where he died in 1915.

Moric Bartoš, born in Bobot, Trenčín, in 1846. Living in Oklahoma.

Joseph Caha, born in Hor. Vilímov, Třeboň. Came from Saunders County. Died in 1911, aged 78. His sons Frank, John and Joseph living. Frank was county commissioner.

Frank Žíla, born in Březany; Joseph Hloušek, unknown; Frank Severin, born in Hamry; Václav Bruna, born in Kněžice; John Ryneš, born in Nová Kdyně; Frank Mráček, born in Volešná, Hořovice, in 1845, died in 1917; Joseph and Václav Krejčí, born in Biskoupky, Zbirov. Joseph died in 1920, Václav living. Václav Šimek; Joseph Šubert, born in Kámen, Habry; Frank Kroupa, born in Horaždovice, Strakonice; Anton Hájek, born in Renčov, Nové Strašecí; Šturma; Matuška; Joseph, Frank and Anton Práveček, born in Domažlice; Matěj Šlajs, unknown.

Most of the following, of whom no other record is available, came in 1885 or 1886:

John Čadek, born in Třeboň; Frank Kalous; Frank Krula; Frank Kratochvíl; Frank Procházka, Nová Ves, Chotěboř; Anton Soukup; Mrzina; Thomas Kula; Charles Klufa Sr. and his son Charles Jr.; Skřivánek; John Kozel, Olšany, returned to Bohemia, where he died; Morava Sr. and Morava Jr.; Vítovec; Ourek; Holan, who used to be blacksmith in Dunlap; Alois Čermák; Charles and Ignác Studený; Fr. Ambrož; Fr. Štika; J. Honomichl; Václav Vaško Sr.; Joseph Vaško, living in Omaha. Mr. Janda, who in 1893 was killed by lightning on his farm near Lawn, his eighteen-year-old daughter perishing at the same time. Fr. Sr., Fr. Jr., Jos. and Vác. Frank, all born in Jílov, Nová Kdyně. Ant. Novotný; Jos. Forejt, Týnice, Horaždovice; Fr. Fittle, Pohoř, Veselí; Josefa Habrman, Hostašovice, Nový Jičín; Václac Hamsa, Kněž, Habry; Victor Hranáč, Černovice, Horaždovice; Geo. Holub, near Nová Kdyně; Jacob Hrbáček, Radonice, Nová Kdyně; V. Hrnčál, Zderaz, Skuč; Jos. and Fr. Jechout, Dobříž, Praha; Fr. Jirsa, Krty, Strakonice; J. and K. Jandera, Bílý Kůň, Litomyšl; Jacob Kříž, Hrotovice, Znojmo; Joseph Klos, Žleby, Čáslav; Frank Koura, Hradecko, Kralovice; Anton Krajíček, Skuhrov, Habry; Joseph Lamplot, Spělkov, Nové Město; J. Cecha, Roveň, Rychnov; Joseph Mladý, Veselíčko, Milevsko; J. Moudrý, Lhota, Vlašim; Joseph Nerud, Nová Sedla, Lomnice; Anton Novotný; John Plášek, Provodov, Německý Brod; Anton and Čeněk Prokop, Strašice, Strakonice; John Sazama, Radonice, Nová Kdyně; John Staněk, Sány, Poděbrady; Joseph Strašák, Sedlec, Vysoké Mýto; Frank Šimek, Velká Řetová, Ústí nad Orlicí; Frank Topinka, Odranec, Nové Město; Joseph Žabka, Pečín, Žamberk.

These all lived in and about Box Butte, Dunlap, Hemingford, Marsland, Canton and Alliance.

The colony grew at first and social life developed. Lodges and a reading society were established. As usual where Czechs live, two entirely Czech bands played for gatherings, generally held in a community hall now gone. Besides these two, the band in Hemingford was two-thirds Czech. However, the drouth drove many away. In many instances they sold out at $100 to $200 per quarter section. The dreadful year 1894 brought much suffering. Anton Civiš, Charles Rendla and Frank Klíma, were the committee that in 1890 received and distributed aid for drouth sufferers. These drouths continued, from 1893 to 1900, when most of the settlers had moved away. At present there are about ninety Czech families in this county.

Brown County – 1885

Czechs began to settle in this county about 1885, but practically all left in a very short time. In those days it was a part of Rock County, for in 1893 Brown County was created out of a part of the former. It was a grazing country and Czechs were grain farmers. Among the earliest were the following, most of whom moved to Boyd County, where their names will be found with birthplaces (when available) and some went to Gregory County, South Dakota:

Anton Hambek, Václav Hambek, Frank Scheinost, Matěj Scheinost, Eman Scheinost, Albert Scheinost, Jacob Černý, Václav Král, John Flídr, Joseph Svoboda, John Janoušek, John Havránek, John Pokorný, Frank Protivinský, Frank Holubář, Frank Smolík; Václav Nermut, Joseph Fisher, Joseph Sisr, Joseph Novotný, Frank Bednář, Frank Sládek, Jelínek and Alois (Louis) Janoušek.

Anton Pokorný was rural mail carrier for two years, traveling a long distance, spending the night in Butka.

John Pokorný, born in Znojmo, Moravia, came to St. Paul, Nebraska, in 1887. In 1888 he took a claim in Brown County, as did his sons, Anton, Frank and Charles. They were all driven out by the drouth and moved to Valley, Custer and Garfield counties.

Even this short and unsatisfactory stay in a new neighborhood brought great mental anguish to one family, that of Matěj Scheinost (Šajnost). In the spring of 1888

the families of Matěj Scheinost and Václav Hambek, brothers-in-law (their wives being sisters) moved to Brown from Valley County. At that time there were about ten other Czech families living there. During the first summer both families lived in a house rudely constructed by Scheinost on his land. In the fall Hambek built a house on his homestead and Scheinost proceeded to put up a substantial sod house for the winter. One day his wife and her sister came over with the children, to see how he was getting on. About a mile and a half distant was a large lake, whither the women repaired to gather firewood. They took some of the children with them, but left the three younger girls with the father. Josephine, the youngest, two years old, fell asleep. The father carried her to the old house and put her to bed. When the other children went in later, they were surprised to find her gone. They informed their uncle Mr. Hambek, who thought she had followed her mother. The Scheinost house stood near the road. Three miles away was a large cattle ranch, the cattle sometimes straying over the homesteads. A certain cowboy used to round them up and often stopped for a drink at the Scheinost well. When the women had gathered enough wood, they returned. Having traversed about a mile, they beheld the cowboy riding down the road and concluded that he had, as usual, stopped for a drink. The two dogs that had accompanied them proceeded to follow him, barking wildly, but he vanished among the hills.

The children ran to meet the women, asking for Josephine. When the frightened mother questioned the father, he assured her he had put the child on the bed, but that was found to be vacant. An alarm was spread and neighbors began to search the country. In vain. Someone expressed the fear that the child had been stamped to death by cattle, so one of the neighbors (the parents being unable to speak English) volunteered to visit the ranch for information. The ranchman thought the possibility unlikely, as during a stampede the cattle makes much noise and that had not been heard. Suddenly the cowboy, who thus far had not said anything, made the statement

that the girl was not dead and could be found, but despite pressure he would say no more. When the neighbor reported to the parents, they begged him to go again and implore the cowboy to tell, but he had left the place that evening and all trace of the child was lost.

One day in the following spring Barbara, another daughter, came running into the vegetable garden, where the mother was working, to say that a covered wagon had stopped at their place, the people in it wanting to get a drink. Barbara had looked into the wagon and thought she saw Josephine lying therein. The mother hastened home, but the wagon was gone and she did not know in what direction. Besides, there was no certainty that the child was hers. It may have resembled Josephine and nothing more, but the old wound bled afresh.

Josephine Scheinost at the time of her abduction.

The Scheinosts lived in Brown County five years, moving then to Boyd County. Hambeks moved with them, living on adjoining farms, and they prospered better. Fourteen years had passed since Josephine had disappeared, when one Sunday afternoon a neighbor's daughter, Mary Holeček, called and told them she had read in a Czech paper an item to the effect that a certain woman was looking for the parents of a child lost fourteen years before. The paper had been destroyed accidently and when the parents wrote the publisher, they recived no reply.

Four years more went by. Anton Scheinost, brother of Matěj, lived in Butte. One day his young daughter, walking across the yard, saw an English-language paper flying about and upon picking it up, read that the Omaha

chief of police was looking for information about a child lost in Nebraska eighteen years before, aged two years. She showed it to her mother and her father wrote to the chief, asking for the girl's address, which was furnished. The girl's name was given as Lila Franklin, and Mr. Scheinost wrote to her. Lila answered that she could not remember her abduction; that all she knew was that as a little child she had lived here and there, never long anywhere; that at times she stayed with a woman whom she considered her mother and at other times with strangers.

When she was five years old, her mother took her with her when she travelled, for she was a member of a troupe of travelling performers. Later the woman married a miller named Franklin, but the marriage did not last, owing to the mother's bad temper, and she proceeded to travel around again, this time with a man named Bird. The child was forced to learn various tricks and when she could not perform them well, her foster parents punished her by hunger and beatings. Once, during a severe punishment, she was taken away and remembered staying in a place where there were many other children. She played with them in a garden one day, when a boy came to her to say that her mother wanted him to bring her back. Being in deadly fear of the woman, she went with him and her sad life began all over again. Once Bird bought a baloon and announced he would take his "daughter" with him. When the time for the performance arrived, the child, horribly frightened, could not be induced to get in. The audience intervened and would not allow him to proceed. For that she was beaten with a rope so painfully that she lay in bed for days.

After a time Bird died and the mother with Lila moved to Chicago, where the elder woman was stricken with cancer. Lila was then sixteen and in spite of the cruel treatment received, served her mother faithfully. When the mother knew she must die, she told the girl she was sorry for not having been kinder to her and told her to go to her sister in St. Louis, after her death, and ask for

her ring. Lila did as directed, but the woman's sister would not give up the ring, saying it was her property, because the girl was not her sister's own child. She told Lila her sister had abducted her in 1888, but would say no more. Lila returned to Chicago and confided in her neighbor, her good friend. This neighbor told her husband and these kind people advertised in English-language papers, trying to reach the parents, but to no avail. At last the man thought of writing to the Omaha chief of police, and thus the right way was found. The chief in turn advertised, for he found that in 1888 no other child but Josephine Scheinost had been abducted in Nebraska. He discovered too that in 1894, in Stuart, Holt County, a woman belonging to a travelling troupe had been indicted for mistreating a child, which had been placed in an orphanage, whence it disappeared shortly thereafter. Mr. Scheinost's brother Anton lived in Butte, Boyd County, at the time. His daughter saw the chief's appeal, told her parents and her father wrote, but the chief did not know Lila's address and had to advertise for that, with good results. Lila answered and was put in touch with her uncle Anton and so at last Scheinosts found their long-lost daughter. She could not speak Czech, but her brothers and sisters interpreted until she learned it. In 1910 she married a Czech, Frank Bicek, and lives near Colome, South Dakota.

Josephine Scheinost and husband Ludvík Bicek

Scheinosts never discovered how or why their daughter was abducted. All that was ever found out was that the

wife of their neighbors named Ormsby was a sister of the woman who took Lila, and the cowboy in question used to take care of the Ormsby cattle. The woman was visiting her sister at the time. The parents conjectured that for some reason she needed a child she could represent as her own and when she had it, made use of it in her performance.

Cheyenne County – 1885

The colony in this county settled in the vicinity of Lodge Pole, Colton and Sidney, and was founded by V. F. Kučera, a locator, who advertised in the Pokrok Západu. When the nucleus was formed, others followed their friends and relatives.

1885—The Following Came:

Václav Verner was the first to come. Born in Ruda, Nové Strašecí. Václav Librcajt, second; V. F. Kučera, third, born 1859 in Jarov, County Plzeň.

1886—The Following Came:

A. J. Křikač, being the fourth. Born in Lužany, Přeštice, now living in Butte, Boyd County.

This colony, like others in the western part of the state, suffered from drouth and most of the settlers moved away in the early nineties. About that time, before the exodus, the following were living there:

P. O. Lodge Pole:

Václav Kutiš, Chvalsovice, Hluboká; Václav Mika, Hluboká; John Pavlat, Doudleby, Kostelec nad Orlicí; Joseph Běl, Lužany, Přeštice; John Jeník, Tisová, Vysoké Mýto; Frank Vinkler, Radnice, Rokycany; Anton Henžl, Syré, Zbirov; Anton Kříž, Sudislav, Kostelec; Frank Zálenský, Horky, Litomyšle; Joseph Oliverius, Jarov, Kralovice; Matěj Strejc, Tachlovice; Anton Gottštein, Jilemnice; Karel (Charles) Žabokrtský, Slemeno, Rychnov; Leopold Mach, Borovník, Velká Byteš; Joseph Kulyk, Katov; Joseph and Frank Lapis, Dolní Vilímovice, Třebíč; Václav Vacík, Stryčkovice, Klatovy; Joseph Ledvina, Karlík, Zbraslav; John Studlar Sr., Kralovice, Prachatice; Catherine Klein, Frantoly, Prachatice; Henry Strejc, Tachlovice, Smíchov; Felix Poláček, Radomyšl, Strakonice; Václav Poláček, same; Joseph Večera, Zvoleč, Náměst; John Pochop, Dlouhé, Nové Město; Frank and Václav Vosika, Klenov, Veselí.

P. O. Colton:

Joseph Procházka, Bystřice, Nové Město; Joseph Homolka, Bystřice, Nové Město; Anton Krupička, Tachlovice, Smíchov; Joseph Lukáš, Ostrov Ždár; Václav, John, Frank and George Šeda, Újezd, Vysoké Mýto; Anton Chlouba, Třtice, Nové Strašecí.

P. O. Sidney:

Joseph Henžl, Syré, Zbirov; Leo Řezanina, unknown; Frank Šašek, Jehnědlo, Písek; Adam Šimka, Křečovice, Týn nad Rovenskem; Matěj

Jim Wausheeka V. F. Kučera Lawrence Wausheeka

Mertl, Koryta, Kralovice; Luke Študlar, Kralovice; Peter and John Sukovatý, Štěchov, H. Týn.

P. O. Potter:

Frank Sláma Sr., and Joseph Sláma, Slovan, Příbram; Anton Beneš, Kopidlno, Kralovice; John and Frank Lundák, Obory, Příbram.

P. O. Redington:

Peter Hynek, Kellnersville, Wisconsin; Frank Vopat, Nebřežiny, Kralovice.

Mr. Andrew J. Křikač, now living in Butte, Boyd County, one of the early settlers, writes:

"I arrived in Valley County in 1881 from Bohemia, where I was born in Lužany, Přeštice, coming to my cousin Charles Česák, who that spring had settled near Sedlov, in the northwestern part of Valley County. This postoffice was established by John Beran, who was postmaster and who had named it for a town in Bohemia. The following spring I settled on a homestead seven miles west of Česák, in Custer County. During the summer I worked in Howard County, on farms or at my carpentering trade, and spent the winters on my homestead. In 1885 I sold my claim to Joseph Klanecký and lived near Sedlov with my parents, who had come in 1883. During that time I began to dig wells, some as deep as 250 feet. I read V. F. Kučera's advertisements in the Pokrok Západu about Cheyenne County and with a party set out to investigate. I was the only one to settle. Some of the others took claims but did not move there until the following spring. Most of those shown on the list were early settlers. There being no other employment to be had, I dug wells, but it was hard work, for I had to dig through several layers of gravel and rock. It was not only difficult but dangerous work and no one but I could handle it. Once I was obliged to dig eighty feet deep to get the body of a digger who had perished at his work, the well having caved in. About two hundred people had gathered, among them several well-diggers, but none cared to risk his life. I worked all day and all night, before I reached the unfortunate man's head and found he was dead. It required three nights' and two day's work to get the corpse out (Doc. Mann) and to this day I have not received pay for it.

In the spring of 1887 I married Miss Šeda and began farming, but one dry year followed another and so in July, 1890, I put my wife and two little girls in an old covered wagon and started east. Five miles east of Chappell our horses became frightened, for the wind had blown out the cover on our wagon. The shaft fell out of the neckyoke, broke in half, our wagon raised up and flew over. I unharnessed and went to the nearest house, asking the loan of a wagon to get to Julesburg, Colorado, where I wanted

to get mine repaired. Imagine my surprise when the man spoke Czech to his wife. I then addressed them also in Czech and they in turn were surprised, for none of our countrymen lived in that vicinity. My wagon was repaired, and we proceeded, but how painfully, for we did not dare to put the cover on again, and for eleven days following we had to bear the hot, blazing sun. Both children became ill, as a result. At last, on August 1st, we reached my parents in Geranium, Valley County, where I rented a farm for three years. In 1893 I moved to Boyd County, where for a year I was in the saloon business with my cousin Charles Česák. The next spring I moved to Butte, where I now live."

Hayes County – 1885

Another western county, where the number of Czechs has dwindled.

Frank Brož, now living in Tampa, Kansas, writes: "We suffered real pioneer hardships. Eggs sold at 3 cents per dozen, wheat 35 cents per bushel, a young milch cow $10.00, a calf $1.00, hogs $1.00 apiece. The nearest town was Culbertson, twenty miles distant, where we took our hogs. The agent selected the best, the rest he would not take even for a dollar apiece. The owners did not care to bring them home, so waited until dark and then set them loose in the vicinity of the town. Such hogs were not even fit for food, for all they were fed was water slightly tinged with milk. There was no grain for them. Chewing such meat was like chewing gum."—Mr. Brož stayed there, however, until 1908, when he sold 720 acres for $5,800.00 and moved to Tampa, Kansas. Those who braved it out and stayed are now well-to-do.

Anton Friml with his father-in-law set out in 1885 with a mule team. After reaching Holdrege, they then traversed 250 miles of waste lands. When they arrived at their destination and the mules saw no hay nor any prospects of corn, one lay down and died and the other followed suit within a few days. The situation was desperate,—three

small children, no team, not a cent of money and nineteen miles to the nearest town. Friml moved back to Crete, Saline County, after a time, and now lives there.

During the early nineties the settlers were obliged to get aid from their countrymen, and after 1894 but few were left, for most moved away. Among the first pioneers were the following, but more definite record as to birthplace is not available:

1885—The Following Came, from Saline County:

Frank Kalina, Anton Kalina, Frank Tabor, Frank Palas Sr., Anton and Emil Strof, Frank Babka, Václav Glaser, Václav Mareš, John

Home (partly sod house) of Frank Brož

Krchov, John Brož Sr., Matěj Brož, Peter Kučera, Frank Altman, Mary Friml, John Doležal, Thomas Brejcha, Miss Glaser. Frank Hájek came from Colfax County.

1886—The Following Came, from Saline County:

Frank Brož, Joseph Bouška, Frank Vrbský, Joseph Vrbský, Joseph Antoš, Vojtěch (Albert) Vinický, Joseph Hýbl, Joseph Palic Jr., Anton Palic Sr., Anton Palic Jr., Joseph Kalina Sr., Joseph Anton Sr., Joseph Anton Jr., Frank Palas Jr., Ignác Novák.

John Štengl came from St. Louis, Missouri. Joseph Kutina and Mr. Záruba, unknown.

Later the Following Came, About 1887:

P. O. Thornburg:

Václav Hasman, Joseph Hasman, John Skřivánek, John Tlustoš, Anna Kučera, Frank Hájek and Mr. Rohel.

P. O. Galena:

Ludvík (Ludovic) Ošmera, Andres Brousek, Frank Krčál, Barney Neverna, John Neverna Sr., Marie Teplý, John Teplý Sr., Maud Ošmera, Frank Vavák, Joseph Musil Sr., Joseph Musil Jr., Václav Pelikán.

Dawes County – 1885

The first Czech to settle in this county was Vojtěch (Albert) Stránský, born in Velká Řetová, Ústí nad Orlicí, who conducted a hotel and saloon in Chadron. He had lived in Wisconsin where, during the first half of the seventies, he was, according to some, the wealthiest Czech in the United States at that time. The Czech philosopher and former monk, Ladimír Klácel, found an asylum in his home for a time. Stránský, however, died a poor man. Others who came about the time he did were:

Henry Štěpán, born in Krče, Nové Město, who conducted a hotel in Chadron; Casper Fuerst (First), born in Březnice, Blatná, a shoemaker in Chadron; Václav Auštěra, born in Plzeň, who had a saloon in Chadron; Martin Cílek, born in Klobuky, Slané.

The lands were almost worthless for farming and had it not been for the forests, people would have starved. The soil was gumbo, covered with sage brush. Settlers made a bare living by selling wood, for which they had to go twenty-two miles, a hard journey, especially when overtaken by blizzards. When their condition became unbearable, they took up lands in Sheridan County, but most of them left that county also.

In 1888 a large bunch of Russian thistle was exhibited on the sidewalk in Chadron and settlers were instructed to destroy the dangerous weed wherever they found it. The Northwestern Railroad Company employed men to dig it out along their track before it ripened, to prevent it spreading. No one knew whence the thistle came, and as the railroad employees were not faithful to their orders, the weed did spread. Finally it began to be cut while green for feed to cattle and hogs and thus vanquished. About that time cattle died of hunger by the hundreds, for the heavy snows obliterated all pasturage. During the hard times following drouths no agricultural implements were sold, for people had not the money to pay. There are now about twelve Czech families in the county, around Chadron and

Marsland. In the early nineties the following were living there:

P. O. Dunlap:

Anton Chládek, Sadská, Poděbrady; John and Frank Nejbert, Sány, Poděbrady; Frank Staněk Sr., Sány, Poděbrady; Anna Potměšil, Malé Opolany, Poděbrady; Alois Čermák, Kolín; Frank Feidler, Tábor; Václav Rada, Vodranty, Čáslav; Frank Valeš, unknown; Ignác and Joseph Husák, Říčany, Rosice.

P. O. Chadron:

Joseph Humlíček, Dankovice, Nové Město, Morava; Frank Ričan, same; Alois Jančík, Vír, Bystřice.

P. O. Crawford:

Frank A. Fafek, Praha; Matěj Svoboda, Lednice, Kralovice.

Fort Robinson:

Jacob Černý, Černíkov, Klatovy. A tailor in the fort.

P. O. Marsland:

Joseph Tramba, Čáslav; Václav Fendrich, Podmoky; Karel Klos, Žleby, Čáslav; Frank Šafránek, Novosedly, Lomnice; Anton Havlíček, Lhotka, Mělník; Václav Ulrych, Třtice, Nové Strašecí; Anton Dobeš, Ostašov, Hrotovice; Charles Hrdlička, Štěchovice, Strakonice; John Skala, unknown; Václav Černý, Brníkov, Libochovice; V. Baxa, Dekov, Plzeň.

In the Town of Chadron:

Thomas Čížek, Dechtin, Klatovy; Marie Čížek, Janovice, Klatovy; Frank Štastný, Vranov, Benešov; Henry Štěpán, Krčín, Nové Město; V. Auštěra, Plzeň; Čeněk Hlaváček, Zalužany, Vysoké Mýto; V. Stránský, Velká Řetová, Ústí nad Orlicí; Caspar Fuerst, Malé Opolany. Poděbrady.

Sioux County – 1886

The northwestern corner of our state was originally known as Sioux County and later was divided into three counties of almost equal size: Sioux, Dawes and Sheridan. This occurred in 1886, when the inhabitants of the south portion of Dawes County asked for the division because Chadron, the county seat, was distant and there were no bridges across the Niobrara River, while the timbered hills were difficult to traverse. All the records on hand as to Czech settlers in this county are the following, who lived there in the early nineties:

P. O. Canton:

John Pokorný, born in Ostašov, Hrotovice; Frank Koudelka. Hodslavice, Nový Jičín; Joseph Bame Sr., Dolní Lukavice, Přeštice; Joseph Morávek, Sloupnice, Chrudim.

P. O. Harrison:

Anton Morávek, Rychnov, Králové Hradec; Joseph Štastný, Vranov, Tábor.

Later, after 1904, when the Kincaid law went into effect, allowing an individual to take up 640 acres as a homestead, more Czechs settled there, but evidently did not stay, for at present there are only five families of this nationality in this county.

Garfield County – 1889

This county lies north of Valley County and the Czech colony, in the vicinity of Burwell, is part of the general colony in Garfield, Custer and Valley Counties. Many Czech farmers living in either of the two latter have their postoffice in Burwell, the county seat of Garfield County, as shown on the list.

The first settler was Joseph Bartoš, born in Cerekvice, near Litomyšl, who pre-empted land on June 10, 1889. The next was Václav Miška (Mishka), born in Peklo, Litomyšl, who on March 1, 1891, bought railroad land near Elyria, Valley County. He moved five years later to Washington Territory. During the last twenty-five years many Czechs have been added to this colony, living on farms and in Burwell.

In the early nineties the following were living there:

Joseph Slobodný, born in Ponědraž, a saloonkeeper; Anton Dvořák, born in Chlístov, Třebíč, saloonkeeper; Marie Novotný, retired, unknown.

These lived in Custer County, but had their postoffice in Burwell:

John Bažant, Janov, Hrubé Pole, Slavonia; Frank Vaněk, Svratka Radešínská, Nové Město, Moravia; Vavřinec Novák, Archlebov,Ždánice, Moravia; Frank Koloušek, Zvol. Bystřice, Jihlava; John Penaz, Dlouhé, Nové Město, Moravia; Václav Hejsek, Šimanov, Německý Brod; Joseph Badalyk, Dlouhé, Nové Město, Moravia; Joseph Štefka, Lípa, Holešov; Joseph Rejda, same; John Nedbálek, same.

These lived in Valley County, but had their postoffice in Burwell:

John Pavlan, Šimanov, Německý Brod; Jacob Staněk, Archlebov, Ždánice; Joseph Pacas, Nasedlovice, Ždánice; George Kruml, Zahořany,

Nová Kdyně; John Čech, Dlouhé, Nové Město; Frank Mašín, Neškaredice, Kutná Hora; Anton Vajner, Velká Víska, Horovice; Václav Kasal, Krucemburk, Chotěboř; Vojtěch (Albert) Hulinský, Chotice, Votice; Joseph Mareš, Dublín, Sedlčany; Frank Bedlivý, Kraštovice, Strakonice; Václav and John Čech, Dlouhé, Nové Město; Frank Rousek, Kostelní Lhota, Poděbrady; Jacob Hlouzka, Vítějovice, Prachatice; Frank Peňaz, Dlouhé, Nové Město; Frank Adámek, Chlumětín, Hlinsko.

Boyd County – 1890

Boyd County originally was an Indian reservation, the eastern half belonging to the Ponca Reservation (from which the stream traversing the whole county takes its name) and the western half belonged to the Rosebud Reservation. The larger part of this latter reservation was in South Dakota and was opened to settlers in 1891. However, many settled there under the so-called "squatter's right" in 1890, and thus had the opportunity to choose the best lands.

Joseph Šedivý

Probably the first Czech to settle here was Joseph Šedivý, born in 1857 in Srdečnice, who came to Niobrara with his parents in 1869, from Chicago. They lived in Niobrara in a log house during the winter. It burned down in the spring and left them destitute. About two years later they moved to Pishellville, where the Indians stole about all they had. Later, in May, 1890, Šedivý took a claim near Lynch, Boyd County, and that same year was followed by others.

1890—The Following Came:

Joseph, Frank, John and Ben Šedivý, all born in Srdečnice; Thomas Velfel, born in 1855 in Vítkovice, Budějovice; Joseph Fišer, born 1863 in Petrovice, Třeboň.

1891—The Following Came:

John and Frank Hájek, born 1862 in Chot'ánky, Poděbrady; Joseph Hájek, born in Knox County; Joseph Fišer, born 1848 in Nová Ves, Králové Hradec; Joseph Mičánek, born 1848 in Lišné, Jihlava; Joseph Vašátko, father-in-law of John Koráb. Born 1836 in Bohemia, died in 1912. Came to Nebraska from Linn County, Iowa. Joseph Mičánek Jr., born 1871 in Lišné, Jihlava; Joseph Kálal, born 1858,

died 1902; Joseph Sláma, born 1844 in Lišné, Jihlava, died 1924; John Bureš, Křížanky, Nové Město; Frank Kukal, born 1836, died 1917; Joseph Vomáčka, born 1848 in Sadská; Frank Nermut, born 1849 in Želiv, Čáslav, died 1924.

1892—The Following Came:

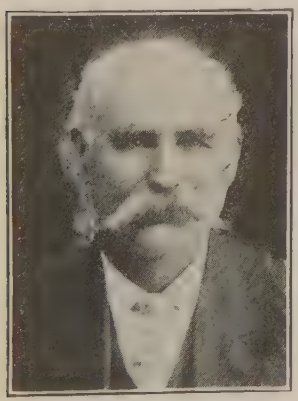
John Koráb, born 1863 in Borová, Polička; Martin Slamšídlo, born 1855 in Vodňany; John Říhánek, born 1871, Německá Bříza, Plzeň.

1893—The Following Came:

Daniel Melsha, born 1871 in Linn County, Iowa.

Others who lived there in the early nineties were:

Joseph Prchal, County of Tábor; Joseph Pech, unknown; Joseph Bednář, Svatoslava, Tišnov; Joseph Boháč, father and son, Hobušín, Bystřice; Vojtěch (Albert) Hašek, Křenovice; John Šajner, unknown; Frank Fišer, Bobnice, Nymburk; Anton Pavlanský, Bobata, Trenčín; Anton Plaček, Sadská, Poděbrady; John Filip, Dubné, Budějovice; Charles Řehůrek, Velké Obušiny, Bystřice, Moravia; Joseph Hloušek, Spělkov, Bystřice, Moravia; Václav Šlechta, Sadská, Poděbrady; Joseph Vomáčka and Joseph Drobný, Sadská, Poděbrady; Alois Krejčík, Jetř. Lhota, Poděbrady; John and Marie Kulhavý, Přímka, N. Hrady; Frank Halva, Víchov, Tábor; Joseph Kavka, Kynice, Ledeč; Joseph Jelínek, Sestrouň, Selčany; John Skalický, Knox County; Anton Rychtařík, Kostomlatky, Nymburk; Joseph Plíšek, unknown; Anton Bašta, Slatina, Velvary; Frank Vokner, Chvalovice, Poděbrady; John Vlčan, unknown; Joseph Fišer Sr., Nová Ves, Králové Hradec; Rosalie Poula, Přívraty, Ústí nad Orlicí; Joseph Černý, Vlkšice, Milevsko; Vojtěch (Albert) Šístek, Dlouhá Lhota, Zbirov; Bartoloměj (Bartholomew) Caha, Březí, Budějovice; Joseph Košta, County of Budějovice; Joseph and Anton Praveček, Domažlice; Frank Joura, Joseph Říha, Václav Matějíček, Václav Tomek, Alois Vlna, Vít. Fišer, John Šedivý, Frank Melsha, Joseph Vašátko, Vojtěch Svatoň, Frank Ročejdl, John Svatoš, Albert Soulek, Jacob Hrouda, John Soulek, Henry Malý, John Cihlář, John Chvala, birthplace unknown.



John Sedláček

All the foregoing settled around Lynch between 1890 and 1894.

The following settled around Spencer:

1890—John Sedláček, born 1848 in Lučice, Čáslav, died 1922; Matěj Sedláček, born 1843 in Lučice, died 1922; Frank Sedláček, born 1869 in Lučice, Čáslav; Bedřich (Frederick) R. Prokeš, born 1856 in Doudleby, Kostelec, died 1925; Joseph Kruntorád, born 1826 in Skuhrov, Čáslav, died 1918; Joseph Karel, born in Voleš-

nice; Joseph Fiala, born in Moravia, Joseph Fiala, born 1839 in Osek, Rokycany, died 1904.

1891—Frank Prokeš, born 1860 in Doudleby, Kostelec; John Prokop, born 1846 in Lipnice, Čáslav; Joseph Pelc, Litostrov, Rosice; Anton Holeček, born 1860 in Výčapy, Čáslav; Bedřich Hulec, born in Polička, Chrudim; Václav Bárta, born in Sosen, Bechyně; John Jambor, born in 1857 in Tis, Čáslav.

1892—Václav Jambor, born 1863 in Tis, Čáslav; Matěj Singer, Havlovice, Domažlice; Frank Jelínek, Knox County; Frank Němec, born 1842 in Svatoslav, Brno; Anton Němec, born 1847 in Svatoslav, Brno; John Němec, born in 1873, same; John Sobotka, unknown; Matěj Scheinost, born 1838 in Úsilov, Plzeň, died 1925; Frank Scheinost, born 1856 in Úsilov, Plzeň; Václav Hambek, born 1857 in Úsilov, Plzeň, died 1924; Anton Hambek, born 1862 in Úsilov; John Havránek, born 1840 in Bučice, Čáslav, died 1916; Joseph Klasna, born 1867 in Týnec, Plzeň; Joseph Bělohlavý, born County of Plzeň; John Janoušek, born in Kravsko, Znojmo; Joseph Svoboda, born 1859 in Biskupice, Znojmo, died 1925; Joseph Svoboda, born in Kravsko, Znojmo.

1893—Raimond Hampl, born 1854, died 1919; George Pokorný, Frank and Joseph Zátopek and Václav Dvořák, birthplace unknown.

Others who lived in that vicinity then were:

Anna Hulec, born in Polička, Chrudim; Jacob Fišer, Hlohová, Staňkov; Bartoloměj Boška, Budkov, Prachatice; Frank Holubář, Hrotovice, Znojmo; Joseph Melina, Janovice, Německý Brod; Kate Gruntorád and Marie Habášek, Lučice, Německý Brod; Joseph Jambor, Tis, Čáslav; John and Anna Fiala, Zbraslavice, Náměst', Znojmo; Fr. Sobotka, Hluboké, Znojmo; Frank Němec Jr., F. Němec Sr., Svatoslav, Tišnov; Joseph Karas, County of Plzeň; Charles Janoušek, Kravsko, M. Budějovice.

Václav Bělohlavý, born October 20, 1857, in Polánka, living in Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

John Janoušek, a blacksmith, born in Boskův Týn, Mor. Budějovice.

Joseph Tureček, Joseph Prokeš, Joseph Sedláček and Frank Pokorný, birthplace unknown.

The following settled around Butte:

1891—Frank Holubář, Hrotovice, Znojmo; Frank Jonáš Jr., Colfax County; Anton Žižka, Kunvald, Žamberk; Bedřich Mlinář, Klášterec, Žamberk; Frant. Průša, Ctiněves, Roudnice.

1892—Eman Scheinost, born 1860 in Úsilov, Plzeň; Frank and John Matoušek, Krasňov, Humpolec; Charles and Frank Veselý, born in Saunders County.

1893—Andrew J. Křikač, born 1862 in Lužany, Plzeň. About that time also Anton Tázler, Kunvald, Žamberk.

In and about Naper:

1891—Frank Bercha, born in Jemníky, Unhošt, died 1924; Joseph and Frank Černý, unknown.

1892—Joseph Protivinský, born in Blány, Mor. Budějovice; Frank Bednář, Citonice, Znojmo.

The following lived in the county in the early nineties, but their postoffice was Niobrara in Knox County:

Joseph Říha, Horní Stupno, Rokycany; M. Říha, Přesin, Třeboň; Václav Matějíček, Borotín, Selčany; Charles Kaplan, Velím, Poděbrady; Frank Ježek, unknown; Matěj Kubánek, Skrchleby, Nymburk; Thomas Stamback, Melenov, Plzeň; Marie Jacobs, same; Frank Čuhel, Podolešnice, Kunštat.

While Czechs in this county live in the vicinity of all the postoffices, the two largest colonies are found in and about Lynch and Spencer. The pioneers had at first, on the average, little more than fifty dollars per family and suffered much. For instance, Bartoloměj Caha had no wagon and the nearest town was Niobrara, thirty miles distant. He hitched his oxen to a sleigh and thus, even in summer, made his way. When the grass was long and slippery, it was not half-bad sleighing. Upon reaching town, most of the settlers had no money, or perhaps but twenty-five cents, which they gave to the liveryman for the care of their teams, and they slept on hay in the barn. If they had not brought lunch from home, they took a look at the restaurant or hotel. That had to suffice for a meal. However, the terrible year of 1894 nearly resulted in a famine, and in truth would have done so had not help come from the east.

While the earliest comers were those who took advantage of the "squatters' right" in 1890, the larger number came in 1891 and 1892, and all were poor. During the first year everyone was busy with preparing a home and necessary buildings and so could not cultivate much ground. That was done the following year. The winter of 1893-1894 was dry, with but little snow. Wheat sown early that spring came up, but later grain did not. The spring was too dry. On May 20th a strong north wind blew all day, the night following with a heavy frost, so that everything, even grass, froze. During that summer but three inches of rain fell and that only in some localities, in others none at all. There was no crop whatever and one can imagine what this meant to the poor pioneers in Boyd County. This terrible

drouth prevailed over the whole state, but old settlers in more fertile portions did not feel its consequence so heavily. Our people in Boyd County had no reserve supplies and it is impossible to describe their hardships. Only those who experienced them can understand.

No markets were nearer than thirty-five or forty miles. Those in the eastern part of the county went to Verdigre and O'Neill, from the central to O'Neill and from the western to Atkinson and Stuart, but the distance for all was about the same. They had nothing to take to market, but were obliged to go occasionally for provisions and other necessities. When they reached town, they lodged in barns and dined on bread and water. But few could afford even a piece of bologna sausage and a glass of beer.

In the fall of 1894 newspapers published reports of drouth and contributions began to be gathered all over the United States, to relieve the sufferers. Grain, provisions and clothing were sent, and the railroads charged nothing for transportation of this. But as often happens, the most needy received nothing, the bold gathered the cream. Czechs, a foreign and timid people, were pushed aside and received only the leavings.

The settlers in the vicinity of Spencer met and contributed enough money to send Joseph Fiala to Minnesota, where he asked help from his countrymen. He received from them a carload of grain and the railroads took it as far as O'Neill, our people going there and dividing it fairly among themselves. Thus they got at least seed grain for 1895. Had it not been for these kindhearted Minnesota Czechs, many in Boyd County would not have been able to plant grain. Those around Gross sent Václav Hambek to Iowa and Minnesota, who brought back money. Those around Lynch sent John Koráb to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, his old home, where he got $200 in contributions and thus helped to relieve the most pressing distress. At that time many left, for it seemed they must do so to save their lives.

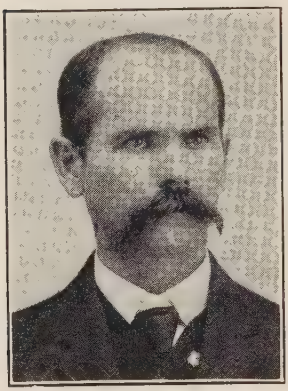
On the Missouri River north of Boyd County used to be Fort Randall, with a military reservation adjoining and

reaching into Boyd County. Many Czechs are settled in that part of the reservation, for it had been opened to settlers in 1895. There was a fine forest there, large cottonwood, elm, oak and ash trees. Settlers there and in Boyd County used to cut fuel and building material from it. Near Fort Randall itself was a natural park, with many beautiful trees. When all the timber around had been cut, some of the settlers began to cut in the park. They resisted efforts of the watchman to stop them, for they had no fuel and no money to buy any. As a result, all were arrested. Some were taken to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and others to Omaha, before the federal court and find $10.00 and costs. However, not a single fine was paid, for not one of the indicted ones had the money to pay it. Indeed, their fares home had to be paid by others. In those times the United States marshals worked on commission. The more people they brought before the federal court, the more they made, and so Uncle Sam paid quite a sum for having his trees cut.

Czechs in this county will long remember the catastrophe that befell the family of Joseph Práveček. Práveček was born in 1865 in Domažlice, Bohemia, and came to this country with his parents as a five-year-old child. His wife (Anna Suchý), was born in 1868, and at that age too came to this country. They were married in Tyndall, South Dakota, and settled in Lynch in 1891, establishing a dry goods store, which they conducted until 1898, when they moved to Monowi. In 1909 they bought a farm near Spencer, where tragedy awaited them.

The year 1915 was very wet and rainy in Boyd County, so that Ponca Creek, which runs through it, overflowed thirteen times. A mile south of Spencer, in a deep gully running about three miles further southwest, lived Joseph Práveček and his family, consisting of himself, wife, son and three daughters. A nephew, Edward Práveček, made his home with them. Of the children, Mary and Stazia were older, George and Frances younger. About six o'clock of the evening of May 25th a heavy cloud rolled by, sending down cataracts of water, almost entirely into the gully.

The Práveček family were just about to eat supper, but seeing the cloudburst, all but the two oldest girls, who were not at home, got into a wagon standing in the yard. They intended to save themselves by getting away to higher elevation, but were caught by the torrent and all perished. The swollen stream carried the bodies about two miles down, where the mother and Frances (thirteen years old) were found with George, fifteen years old. The team of horses had remained by the haystack in the yard and was found unharmed. Joseph Práveček's body and that of his nephew Edward could not be found, although the whole gully was searched by hundreds. On May 29th Mrs. Práveček and her children were buried in one grave, in the Catholic cemetery near Spencer. That very day Ponca Creek rose once more and when the waters fell, Joseph Práveček's body was found, on May 30th. The last overflow had washed away the deposit with which the previous rising had covered him. His funeral occurred on May 31st, his body being interred by the side of his beloved ones. About two weeks later Anton Práveček, who had with others constantly searched for the body of his boy Edward, found it and had him buried by his relatives.



Andrew J. Křikač

The data for the history of this county was furnished by A. J. Křikač of Butte.

Seward County – About 1890

It has been impossible to get the exact date when this county was first settled by Czechs, but the rural community is an overflow from Saline County. As shown on the list following, many have had Crete for their postoffice. In the early nineties the following lived here:

P. O. Pleasant Dale:
John Studený, from near Brno.

P. O. Cordova:
John J. Touš, Malechov, Klatovy; Matěj Marušák, Víska, Sušice.

P. O. Beaver Falls:
Václav Houžvička, Sadská, Poděbrady.

P. O. Camden:
Frank Buriánek, unknown; Thomas Crha, Maršov, Brno; Joseph Dědic, unknown; Joseph Keller, unknown.

P. O. Crete, Saline County:
Joseph Jirotka, Velké Přítočno, Unhošť; Anton Horký, Libochová, Meziříčí; Frank Kubeš, Borovník, Nové Město; John Stehlík, Maršovice, Nové Město; Joseph Bochníček, Borovník, Nové Město; Joseph Roman, Dubňany, Velká Byteš; Frank Svoboda, Křižanov, Velká Byteš; John Chaloupka, Roseč, Velká Byteš; Charles Mach, Borovník, Nové Město.

P. O. Berks:
Frank Kraus, unknown.

P. O. Milford:
V. Hejna, Jindřichův Hradec.

About 1910 a settlement began to form in and around Bee.

Antelope, Banner, Franklin, Platte and Scottsbluff Counties

This is a group of counties containing very small settlements. In the early nineties the following farmers lived there:

Antelope County

Václav Hána, near Elgin. F. J. Dvořák, born in Dřevec, Kralovice, near Oakdale. In this county, in the town of Neligh, is the grave of Joseph Pačes, a Czech martyr to the cause of social democracy. Thomas Čapek in his book "The Čechs in America" calls him the Czech Jean Val Jean. Pačes was an ordinary workman who secretly published a paper devoted to his cause, in northern Bohemia. Because he did so without governmental permission (which would not have been given him anyway) he was tried for treason and sent to prison at hard labor. He further injured his prospects by attacking a brutal jailkeeper and in all spent eighteen years of his life in confinement. František

Soukup, a noted socialist in Bohemia, travelled in the United States and in 1912 published a book of his impressions. He visited the grave of Joseph Pačes and has this, in part, to say about him: "Joseph Pačes was discharged from the penitentiary at Bor (Czechoslovakia), and came to us via Plzeň. Two hundred of his sympathizers met in the room of a restaurant and there we beheld him for the first time. A bowed, pallid frame, as if arisen from the grave. His face was seamed and jaded; his eyes deeply sunken, with proud-flesh encircling one of them; his hands trembled and his knees wabbled. Eighteen years of prison at hard labor had chiselled its marks on this living skeleton." —Soon after that Pačes came to this country where he worked as a laborer in Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis, Kansas City, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. His last letter was dated in Mitchell, Nebraska, and soon after that he died in Neligh.

Joseph Pačes

Banner County

Frank Šimic, born in Sedlec, Kralovice, and Anton Urban Sr., born in Jarov, both lived near Freeport. Poor soil there. Farmers earned money by cutting wood in the foothills.

Franklin County

John Dudek, born in Dlouhá Ves, Rychnov; John Petřík, Opařany, Bechyně, and Thomas Skupa, Březina, Tábor,—near Campbell.

Platte County

Joseph Lahoda, born in Řňov, Poděbrady,—near Cornlea. Frank Blecha, born in Březany, Kralovice,—near Postville and Ferd. Psota, born in Doubravačany, Kouřím; Miroslav Růžička, born in Kamenice, Tábor, and Václav Hamer, born in Rousinov, Rakovník, near Lindsay. In later years quite a settlement has formed around Lindsay, being a part of the settlement in Madison County.

Scottsbluff County

Václav Tvarůžek (Češtín), Frank Chalupa Sr., and his son Frank (Smrky, Meziříčí), and Chas. Hrásky (Kamenné Zboží, Nymburk)—near Sunflower.

Religion

In the matter of religion a large majority of Czechs in the United States are either Catholics or Liberals, the remainder are Protestants. Liberals (also called Rationalists, Freethinkers, etc.) are divided into two classes—negativists, the milder type, and radicals, with an anti-Catholic tendency. The latter are more numerous among the older generation. The term Liberal here is meant to describe all the groups ranging from Atheists (or more properly speaking Pantheists, for Czech Atheists believe in Nature as the guiding force) to those who believe in a Creator but do not attend church. Czechs in Nebraska are no exception to this rule. This phase (Liberalism) puzzles many Americans of other extraction, for they think it strange that Liberals can lead an apparently Christian life, as to moral conduct, without belief in theology. These Americans, who live in or near Czech communities, know that Czechs are industrious, law-abiding, peace-loving,—in general very good people to neighbor with and do business with, so it seems strange to them that certain groups can have all the virtues of their church-going brethren and still profess Liberalism. Inasmuch as this question is of moment to most people, and inasmuch as Czechs are probably the first group in this country to openly profess free thought in an organized manner (Unitarians excepted), it is important that the matter be explained. This was not done in the Czech edition of this history, because it was not necessary for Czech readers. Because Liberals claim that their manner of thinking on this subject is deep-rooted in the history of their native land, the author is obliged to trace the outlines of that history. This has been done as impartially as is possible with historical records and with the realization that to many it is still a sore subject. The sole object, however, is to try to explain this unusual phase to those whom it puzzles.

It is probable that Christianity penetrated into Moravia earlier than into Bohemia, for as early as the year 836 a Christian church was consecrated at Neutra in Moravia by the Archbishop of Salzburg. However, Christianity introduced through the agency of Germany was not likely to gain many adherents, as the Christian faith was, in the eyes of Bohemians, necessarily connected with the hostile German race. It was from the east that Christianity completely and permanently penetrated into Moravia and Bohemia. In 862 the Moravian Prince Rostislav sent a mission to the court of the Greek Emperor at Constantinople, asking him to send Christian teachers of the Slavonic race to Moravia. The emperor Michael then selected two priests, the brothers Constantine and Methodius, to accompany the mission to Moravia. When the brothers started, Constantine brought with him a translation of the Bible written in the language of the Slavic inhabitants of Macedonia. For this translation Constantine used the letters of the new alphabet, which he had himself invented, and which from the name he afterward assumed (Cyril) became known as the Cyrillic alphabet. It renders with great precision the sounds peculiar to Slavic languages and is still largely used in eastern Europe. The Slavic language thus became a written one and by its use in religious service took its position with Latin and Greek as a liturgic language. The undertaking of the brothers was fully successful. Numerous churches were built and the inhabitants of Moravia eagerly flocked to the religious services, which were held in the Slavonic tongue.

The two apostles had journeyed to Rome in 867, to obtain from Pope Hadrian II authority to work among the Czech people and this was granted. The Bavarian bishops, fearful lest the Slavic countries be lost to their jurisdiction, accused them of being heretics, but the pope found them innocent. After Cyril's death Methodius was tricked by the Archbishop of Salzburg, who under pretext of hospitality invited him and then held him in prison for two and a half years. He was freed upon the order of Pope John VIII and returned to his people, but was persecuted

by the German bishop Wiching and once more accused of heresy. Again he made his way to Rome and again found innocent, by the same Pope John VIII. After his death Wiching persecuted Methodius' followers and confusion ensued. When order was restored, Latin service was substituted for Czech, and the country was permanently placed under the influence of Western European civilization.

Thus from earliest times injustice of German usurpers was linked with Catholicism, although the popes themselves had nothing to do with it. They stood by Bohemia, for they understood that the trouble lay in national differences rather than religious differences. Until 973 Bohemia was subject to the German bishops. In that year Bishop Wolfgang and the Pope conceded to the wishes of Czechs and a bishopric was established in Prague. Then followed several centuries of intermittent warfare mostly with Germans, but intensified by strife among the Czechs themselves.

Catholicism prospered for several centuries, but the burning of John Hus (July 6, 1415), and Jeronymus (1416) in Constance, which marks the beginning of the Reformation, threw a brand into Bohemia that eventually lighted the flames of the Thirty Years' War. The Hussite Party was formed, to avenge his death. One faction was of a milder type, the other, the Taborites, did not want to compromise with Rome in any way. Thus ensued fratricidal conflict, followed by crusades of the German potentates under King Sigismund, with whom the Taborites battled under their famous general John Žižka. These are called the Hussite Wars. After Žižka's death, under Prokop Holý, they invaded German and Hungarian territory, to avenge old wrongs, and in the battle of Domažlice they finally conquered the Crusaders.

However, the Czech feudal aristocracy, Protestant and Catholic, tiring of the devastation resulting from internal struggles, joined together with the Catholic and neutral inhabitants, and in the battle of Lipany (a battle between aristocracy and democracy) the Taborites were annihilated

and Sigismund, emperor of Germany, crowned king. He died in 1437, succeeded by his son-in-law Albrecht. After Albrecht's death for a time the country was without a ruler, then followed the Czech (Protestant) king George of Poděbrad (1444—1453) under whom the country prospered and in whose time the Bohemian Brethren church was formed, which paved the way for the Protestant Party.

Czechs never recognized the "divine right" of kings to rule. They elected their kings, who were bound by what was equivalent to our modern constitution, their charter, and they sometimes chose kings from their midst. In 1526 they chose a Hapsburg, Ferdinand I (1526—1564) who founded the Hapsburg dynasty in Bohemia, which was to last until 1918. Ferdinand destroyed the old charter, in accordance with which he was recognized as a king by election and usurped the power which the House of Hapsburg thereafter continued to wield. At the time of his accession the great majority of Czechs were Protestants, under the leadership of the Estates (composed of lords, knights and cities) which contituted the legislative branch of the government. Later a fourth Estate, the clergy, was added, which was destined to exercise the greatest influence on the affairs of government.

The struggle between Catholicism and Protestantism began, not only in Bohemia but in Europe generally. While the Hapsburg rulers tried to stem the tide, the Protestants forged ahead and endeavored to wrest the scepter from a Hapsburg ruler, to give it to one of their own people. In 1617 Ferdinand II was made king and when he refused Protestants permission to re-open churches built by them in Broumov and Hroby (which had been taken over by Catholics) he precipitated the Thirty Years' War. On May 23, 1618, an angry mob in Prague flung out of the council chamber window two of the king's ministers and the vice-regal secretary. This manifestation of defiance plunged the country into war, led by Ferdinand on one side and the Czech Estates (Protestant) under Frederick of the Palatinate, on the other. The Czechs had in 1619 asserted

their right to elect their kings and chose Frederick. Their rebellion ended with the battle on White Mountain, November 8, 1620, when they met their downfall and Bohemia lost the last remnant of her independence.

Ferdinand II now determined to severely punish the rebels. On June 21, 1621, twenty-seven leaders of the revolution, all belonging to the most noted families in the country, were executed. The heads of twelve, enclosed in iron cages, six in each cage, set up on either side of the Charles Bridge, were left there for ten years, to awe the populace. To this gruesome evidence of Hapsburg hatred were added the hands of two others and the tongue of the scholar Jesenský (Jessenius), which had been cut out before his execution. The head and hand of still another martyr were nailed to the wall of the Town House. However, it is only fair to say that great cruelties were practiced by the Protestant Party also, as was common in that time.

So ended the "Bloody Day in Prague" and was followed by a great exodus of the inhabitants who would not renounce their faith. It is estimated that 36,000 families, including 185 houses of nobility (some numbering fifty persons),—statesmen, authors, professors and preachers went into exile. Of a total of 728 estates, 658 were seized and given to favorites of the king, or retained by the state and by the Hapsburgs. In 1620 the Jesuit fathers, who had come in 1556 but for a long time did not gain in numbers, were invited to Bohemia. They took charge of the once renowned University of Prague and the provincial schools and began to systematically build up their weakened party. The slogan of that time was: "Cuius regio, eius religio", or in effect: those who governed had the right to determine the religion of their subjects.

The Bohemian Brethren had greatly increased and popularized Czech literature and many books then published were of a philosophical and educational nature. Almost all literary works subsequent to Hus had been imbued with his spirit. As a proof of the high development of literature and printing in Bohemia in that early day,

it is sufficient to say that in the search for heretical books, one man alone, a priest named Koniáš, claimed that he had burned or mutilated thirty thousand Bohemian volumes. When we consider further that these and other similar books were found in homes, to which entrance was authorized by the Hapsburgs and enforced by military power, we have further proof that there was already at that time a large number of lovers of literature among the Bohemian people.

But again, as in the case of Methodius and the popes, it was a Catholic and a Hapsburg at that, Emperor Joseph II, son of Empress Maria Theresa, who in 1781 issued the Toleration Patent, allowing Protestants to worship openly, although not exactly in the form that had been used by the Bohemian Brethren. That is, they were to use either the Augsburg or Helvetian confession of faith. True, this same emperor endeavored, even more persistently than did his forebears, to Germanize the Czechs, but we are speaking now of the matter of religion. And among the Czech patriots who, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, helped to resuscitate and modernize the suppressed language, kept alive so long only among the lowly, we find the greatest credit due to a number of Czech priests, called with the rest the "awakeners of the nation". Among them were: Gelasius Dobner, Joseph Dobrovský, Francis Pubička, Nicholas Voigt, Francis Procházka, Václav Stach, Albert Nejedlý, Dominik Konský, Joseph V. Sedláček and Anton Marek.

Thus it can be seen that from earliest times national strife was intertwined with religious strife. During the second half of the last century Czech literature took on a new life and its outstanding feature was the history written by Francis J. Palacký, called the father of his nation. The masses thus had opportunity for the first time to acquaint themselves with the history of their country.

These then, as stated before, are the phases of Czech history which, as many contend, made patriotic Czechs feel antagonistic to the church that, in their opinion, was in

league with a hated alien government, and when they came to this country, where they found freedom of speech and press, became Liberals and ceased to believe in orthodox doctrines. But that cannot be the only reason why they became such. They could have been Protestants here as well as many others are. However, the Czech temperament is strongly individualistic. Czechs like to dissent, question, challenge and dispute. This quality they inherit from their Hussite forefathers and this quality is the foundation for liberal thinking. Our prominent authority on Czech-American history and social conditions, Mr. Thomas Čapek, in his book "Čechs in America", says:

"Hussitism, more than any other force, has kindled and kept alive for centuries the feeling of national consciousness . . . . The Hussites started to correct certain abuses in the church, but before long their leaders, broadening the programme, raised the banner of nationalism and struck at the Teutons, whom eventually they pushed everywhere to the very edge of the frontier. The defense of faith and the defense of language were not the only issues involved. In the course of time the dispute resolved itself into its elemental factors: A struggle between democracy, which the Hussites championed, and the right of men to determine for themselves their system of government, their form of religion and their scheme of social relationship; and aristocracy and Teutonism, represented by the anti-Hussites, which sought to impose upon the individual a privileged religion, government and caste system."

As noted in the chapter on Organizations, Czech Liberals in this country for years commemorated the burning of John Hus, whose motto was: "Seek the truth, hear the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, hold the truth, defend the truth unto death".—But truth is this to one, that to another. When Liberals are asked why they revere the memory of a Catholic priest they reply: "If Hus were living today, he would be a Liberal". However, many Catholics in Bohemia respect his memory just the same, as we all instinctively respect the memory of any man who has laid down his life for what he believes to be the truth.

However, it is not fair to blame the Hapsburgs (Germans) or the Catholic Church entirely, for secession from faith. The underlying reason is the gradual development of Liberalism out of Hussitism, along with the development of science and non-sectarian education. When people of that bent of mind came to this country, their ranks were strengthened not only by freedom of press and speech, but also by the fact that for quite a number of years Czech newspapers in this country (with the exception of the Catholic weekly Hlas, St. Louis, Mo.) were of rationalistic or at least neutral tendency. This condition separated Czechs in this country into two factions and its parallel may be found in the Orangemen and Catholics of Ireland, as to intensity of feeling. No violence occurred, for Czechs do not readily engage in fistic combat. They like to settle their disputes orally. The Liberals erred in using ridicule instead of argument, and those on the other side erred in considering enemies all who did not agree with them.

F. B. Zdrůbek

Liberals want to settle questions in the light of knowledge and in this they are the pioneer modernists, so alarming now in the United States to the fundamentalists. For every gain there is a loss. They gain in reason and lose in the consolation that faith brings to its adherents. But when they ceased to believe, they were frank enough to say so, for frankness of expression is another quality of the Czech temperament. The younger generation, born in this country, does not feel as strongly about this, because it has been raised in a different political atmosphere, and because it has in a larger measure enjoyed the benefits of higher education, which always tends to counteract violent feeling of any kind. They look upon religion as a person's private affair, as indeed it ought to be.

Liberals or Freethinkers

Liberalism or Freethought in religion is to a great degree negative. For that reason it is not sustained by a strong organization. Czech Liberals are organized mainly through their reading matter, fraternal and other societies, schools and clubs of a Liberal Thinkers' League (Svobodná Obec). The latter, however, have not made any headway, because the younger generation does not take much interest in them. The weekly Věk Rozumu (Age of Reason), the organ of this League, and the monthly Svojan, both published in Chicago, Illinois, are devoted to the programme of furthering Liberalism.

The community life of the Liberals centers about their halls, which serve many purposes, even occasionally, in the case of a prominent person, for public funerals. They are truly their community centers, now beginning to be so popular with Americans. The following is a list of same:

BOYD COUNTY

Lynch—A frame building in town, owned by Lodge Lipany No. 56, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Spencer—Frame building in town, owned by Lodge Karlín No. 40, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

BUTLER COUNTY

Abie—A frame building in town, owned by Lodge Havlíček Borovský No. 66, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. Also a large building owned by the Tel. Jed. Sokol.

Brainard—A brick building in town, owned by Lodge Čechomoravan No. 68, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Bruno—A small frame building owned by Lodge Brno, No. 43, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. Also a large building owned by the Tel. Jed. Sokol.

Linwood—A frame building in town, owned by Lodge Ratolest Mladočechů No. 31, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

CASS COUNTY

Plattsmouth—A large building, formerly owned by the Tel. Jed. Sokol, now the property of Lodge Tyrš No. 18, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

COLFAX COUNTY

Clarkson—A fine large brick building in town, owned by Lodge Západní Svornost No. 28, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Schuyler—Frame building owned by Lodge Západní Jednota No. 42, Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society.

DODGE COUNTY

Dodge—A frame building in town owned by the Tel. Jed. Sokol.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Omaha—A brick building 110x130 feet called Sokol Auditorium, owned by Tel. Jed. Sokol-Omaha, with modern stage in a large auditorium, separate lodge hall and a modern gymnasium, class room for an all-year Saturday and Sunday Bohemian school, an American night school, etc. Finished in 1926 at a cost of $135,000.

Community hall of Lodge Západní Svornost No. 28, W. B. F. A., in Clarkson.

South Omaha—A large frame building owned by the Tel. Jed. Sokol.

FILLMORE COUNTY

Exeter—A frame building in the country, owned by Lodge Zbirov No. 138, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Milligan—A small frame building, owned by Lodge Rábí No. 27, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

GAGE COUNTY

Barneston—A building near town, owned by Lodge Budějovice No. 6, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Odell—A large frame building in the country, owned by Lodge Králové Hradec No. 17, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Virginia—A building owned by Lodge Šumava No. 130, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

HOWARD COUNTY

Farwell—A frame building in town, owned by Lodge Čech No. 152, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

St. Paul—A frame building in town, owned by Lodge Kutná Hora No. 167, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

KNOX COUNTY

Niobrara—A fine brick building in town, owned by Lodge Vyšehrad No. 53, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Pishelville—A small frame building in the country, owned by Lodge Sladkovský No. 8, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Community hall of Lodge Josef Jungman No. 161, W. B. F. A., in Eureka Township, Valley County.

Verdigre—A fine, large brick building in town, owned by Lodge Bílá Hora No. 5, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

PAWNEE COUNTY

Du Bois—A fine building in the country, owned by Lodge Jan Kollár No. 101, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Table Rock—A building owned by Lodge Přemysl Otakar II, No. 84, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Tate—A frame building on the edge of town, owned by Lodge Osvěta No. 94, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

PIERCE COUNTY

Pierce—A frame building near the city limits, owned by Lodge Český Prápor No. 199, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

PLATTE COUNTY

Lindsay—A frame building in the country, owned by Lodge Jan Hus No. 50, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

RICHARDSON COUNTY

Humboldt—A frame building owned by Lodge Tábor No. 40. Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society.

SALINE COUNTY

Brush Creek Precinct—A frame building in the country, owned by Tel. Jed. Sokol.

Crete—A fine brick building in town, owned by the Tel. Jed. Sokol.

Monroe Precinct—A frame building in the country, owned by Lodge Kolumbus No. 133, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. Another owned by Lodge Mír No. 132, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Community hall of Lodge Dennice No. 14, W. B. F. A., in Ord

North Fork Precinct—A frame building in the country, owned by Lodge Ladimír Klácel No. 92, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Pleasant Hill—A frame building in the country, owned by Lodge Tábor No. 74, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Tobias—A small frame building in town, owned by Lodge Křivoklát No. 79, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Wilber—A brick building owned by Lodge Svojan No. 29, Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society. Also a building owned by Tel. Jed. Sokol.

SAUNDERS COUNTY

Morse Bluff—A nice building of cement blocks in town, owned by Lodge Plzeň No. 9, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Prague—A fine new community brick hall, owned by Tel. Jed. Sokol and the other non-Catholic societies.

Wahoo—A small frame building owned by Lodge Pionýr No. 25, Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society.

SEWARD COUNTY

Bee—A building owned by Lodge Bee No. 214, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

VALLEY COUNTY

Geranium—A fine frame building in the country, owned by Lodge Slavín No. 112, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Ord—A nice brick building in town, owned by Lodge Dennice No. 14, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Eureka Township—A fine new building in the country, owned by Lodge Joseph Jungman No. 161, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

WEBSTER COUNTY

Red Cloud—A frame building in the country, owned by Lodge Čáslav No. 212, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Catholics

Although the Catholics had a hard struggle in the early days, they have reason to feel satisfied with what they have accomplished. As stated before, for a long time they had but one Catholic paper. The first five Czech papers published in this country were non-Catholic. In 1867 the first Catholic paper was launched in Chicago (Katolické Noviny) but existed only half a year. Then followed nine papers similar to the first (neutral or anti-Catholic) and it was not until 1872 that the Catholic weekly Hlas (still being published) was founded in St. Louis, Missouri. Thus, in the matter of publicity, the Liberals had the start. With practically no papers of their own, with almost no priests and churches, and the pioneers everywhere struggling for a bare living, it was but natural that the beginning was hard and slow. But the devout could not be long without the support of their faith. Masses were said in private homes, in public-school buildings, in a court house, as the subsequent record shows. In Howard County they met for worship before a cross driven into the ground. As soon

as they could get together a few dollars, they built simple frame churches, in the eastern part and in western Nebraska constructed log and sod churches. These first crude buildings are being replaced by large and handsome structures and the same is true of rectories and schools. Some Catholic communities also have their halls, but we do not list them here. We have included the Liberals' halls to show what they have done in that direction, as a contrast to what Catholics have accomplished in building churches.

PIONEER PRIESTS

The first resident priest in Nebraska was Rev. later Monsignor Francis Bobal, although he did not have a Czech parish, for he was assigned to Plattsmouth in 1872, when there were no such parishes. Later he was assigned to St. Philomena's Cathedral in Omaha, and still later to Falls City, where his health failed and in 1876 he left our state. Monsignor Bobal was born September 16, 1845, in Lužkovice, Moravia, was ordained in Louvain, Belgium, in 1871, and in the latter part of that year came to Omaha. While in Nebraska he did missionary work among the scattered people, together with Rev. Francis Šulák, who was a missionary here alto gether, not being connected with any parish. Rev. Bobal died in Chicago, Ill., December 20, 1927.

Monsignor Francis Bobal

Rev. Francis Šulák was born in 1825 in Náčice, Moravia, ordained in France and lived there four years, then for twenty years did missionary work in Europe. He was of the Jesuit Order. In 1865 he was sent to the United States and remained here until August 19, 1907, when he went to Cracow, Galicia, where

he died January 28, 1908. He spoke eleven languages and was a naturalist and chemist. His large and valuable collection of botanical and mineral specimens is in the St. Ignatius College, Chicago, Illinois.

The first mass served for Czechs in Nebraska was in the home of Joseph Šimánek, near Prague, Saunders County, in September, 1871, by Rev. Šulák. For a long time there was a country postoffice there, called at first Plzeň after the city in Bohemia of that name. Later the name was changed to Plasi, because it caused confusion in mail delivery with Pilger, Stanton County. Frank Kubík, a pioneer, and then postmaster, asked that the name be changed to Plasi, after the town in Bohemia. This parish is still known by the name of Plasi, although the postoffice has been discontinued for Prague. Rev. Bobal alternated with Rev. Šulák, serving also in the school house, and although the church was not built until 1878, it is in truth the oldest Czech parish in the state. A more detailed history is found in the list of parishes. As far as recorded, the next mass served in a private home was in the sod house of Joseph F. Šindelář, in Colfax County, on Christmas Day, 1871, by the members of the assembly themselves. Several pioneers had settled there on Maple Creek in 1870, as recorded in the history of Tábor parish. These people continued serving mass for themselves for some time before the missionaries and priests came.

Thus for several years Catholics worshipped in homes or buildings allowed them for that purpose. In 1877 Bishop O'Connor of Omaha sent Rev. Groenbaum to Europe, to enlist the services of German and Czech priests, and a call was issued in the papers of Bohemia for priests needed in rapidly forming settlements. Several answered it and thus an impetus was given to the building of churches. Those who came in that year were:

Rev. John A. Blaške (Blaschke) who was assigned to the Czech and German parish of Olean, Colfax County. Rev. Blaške was born January 15, 1844, in Horní Dobrouč near Lanškroun. Having entered upon his theological studies,

he resigned in order to marry. Upon the death of his wife, he re-entered the seminary in 1876 and in 1877 came to Nebraska to do missionary work with Rev. Joseph Hovorka (who was assigned to the parish of Abie) and a student of theology F. Smutný, who was ordained in Chicago, August 17, 1877, and was assigned to Wilber. Rev. Blaške was transferred to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, in 1881 and died there February 15, 1901. Rev. Smutný stayed in Wilber but a few months, for he was afflicted with tuberculosis and died in 1879 in Minnesota. Rev. Hovorka's biography is given in the history of Abie parish.

About that time or just a little later came the following:

Rev. Václav Kočárník (biography given in the history of St. Wenceslaus parish, Omaha).

Rev. Cyril Augustinský, assigned to Columbus and assisting throughout Colfax County. He was born in Brušperk, Moravia, March 21, 1851, ordained in St. Louis, Missouri, July 25, 1875, died in Veseli, Minnesota, January, 1901.

Rev. Václav Kočárník

Rev. F. Tuerk, assigned to Olean June 8, 1882. He was born April 9, 1827, in Březová, Moravia, ordained in Olomouc, Moravia, August 1, 1852, came to the United States in June, 1881. There is no record of his death.

Rev. Francis Pold came in 1883 to Colfax County, serving later in Saline County and probably elsewhere, wherever necessary. He was recalled to Bohemia in 1888. With him came a lay brother of the Jesuit Order, John Kramář.

Rev. Siegfried Klíma, O. S. B., was another pioneer priest, of whom, however, no other biographical records are available.

During the late seventies and early eighties Colfax

County was the scene of greatest activity, for within six years six churches had been built. It was probably for that reason that there was some agitation in favor of erecting a monastery of the Bohemian Benedictine Order in Plasi or Cedar Hill, Saunders County. Bishop O'Connor had obtained the assistance of two Benedictine fathers from Pennsylvania, Rev. Václav Kočárník and Rev. Siegfried Klíma, but the plans were not approved and later the monastery was established in St. Procopius' parish, Chicago. In 1877 several Franciscan fathers arrived from St. Louis, Missouri, to take charge of the parish in Columbus, where and whence they served German, Polish and (when necessary) Czech elements.

The first church built by Czechs was in conjunction with Germans, in the German-Czech parish of Olean, Colfax County, in 1874, lumber having been brought from Fremont, forty miles distant. In 1875 and 1876 Rev. Šulák used to come to cheer and encourage the pioneers stricken by the grasshopper plague. Rev. Blaške was the first resident priest, followed by Rev. Tuerk, during whose time the Czech parishioners separated from the German and formed the parish in Dodge, where a church was built in 1884 and dedicated by Rev. Tuerk.

The first wholly Czech church was built in Abie, Butler County, in 1876. In 1877: churches in Omaha (St. Wenceslaus), Appleton and Warsaw. In 1878: Plasi, Heun and Wahoo. In that year erection of the church in Wilber was begun, but lightning struck it and the building was sold for other purposes.

These then were the beginnings of the Catholic Church among Czechs in Nebraska, who worshipped at first in small even rude buildings, which have gradually been replaced by better ones, that in Wahoo being the finest at present. The church in Brainard held that distinction for twenty years.

Catholic Parishes

ABIE, BUTLER COUNTY—SS. PETER AND PAUL:

As stated above, the first Czech church in Nebraska was built in Abie, in 1876, being 24x48 feet in size and of simple construction, for most of

the parishioners themselves were living in sod houses. John Wall, a German Lutheran, donated ten acres and sold ten more at $5.00 per acre, being the southeast quarter of Section 22, Township 16, Range 4 east. The lumber was brought from Fremont, thirty-three miles away. In 1877 a Mr. Stevens built a store near the church and requested a postoffice, which was granted and he named it Abie (after his wife Abigail). In 1887 two railroads built through and Abie was moved a half mile further.

The first priest was Rev. Joseph Hovorka, born in 1846 in Rychnov nad Kněžnou, ordained July, 1872. He came to Nebraska in 1877 and and upon meeting with his countrymen in Schuyler, was asked to take charge of the church in Abie, which he did, arriving there July 20, 1877. In 1878 he began to serve in Appleton (from Abie), where forty parishioners had built a little church. From 1885 to 1890 he had charge of the church in Heun and in the spring of that year (1890) left for Bohemia, where he died a few years ago.

He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Koutek, born April 10, 1863, in Lipková Voda, ordained in Chur, Switzerland, July 14, 1889, and died

The first Czech church in Nebraska (in Abie, Butler County)

July 22, 1897. He replaced the old building by one that cost $5,000.

His successor was Rev. Francis Žalud. He came to the Lincoln diocese in 1893, serving in Crete and Wilber, and in 1897 substituted for Rev. F. Hovora in Plasi for half a year, going from there to Abie. While in Abie he built the church in Linwood, and was transferred to Bruno February 1, 1902.

He was succeeded by Rev. Václav Pokorný, during whose term a rectory was built. Rev. Pokorný was born in 1869 in Habry near Čáslav. He graduated with honors in 1890 from the grammar school in Čáslav and the High School in Německý Brod. In 1890 he entered the seminary in Hradec Králové, where he was ordained by Bishop Brynych in 1894. He served as assistant in his native diocese until 1898, when he left for the United States. In Nebraska he first assisted in Crete.

Rev. Pokorný was succeeded in 1908 by Rev. John Novotný from Prague, for a short time and he in turn, in January, 1909, by Rev. Matěj Němec, who stayed until September, 1916. Rev. Němec was succeeded by Rev. Jaroslav Hančík, who stayed until the fall of 1917. Rev. Hančík endeavored to build a new church, but was able only to effect the donation of the site by James F. Pavel, for collections were slow. Rev. Hančík also served Linwood from Abie. In the fall of 1917 he was followed by Rev. Francis Kopecký, who in September, 1919, was succeeded by Rev. Victor Mlejnek, the present incumbent, during whose time the church has been completely and artistically furnished, the rectory repaired, a lodge and dance hall bought and remodelled and a Catholic Sokol club founded. June 29, 1926, the parish celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

Rev. Joseph Hovorka

Rev. Mlejnek was born in Ratiškovice near Hodonín, Moravia, studied in Brno, the capital city of Moravia, and finished in Baltimore. He was ordained there by Cardinal Gibbons in 1910. His first parish in Nebraska was that of Plasi. Until June 18, 1918, the church was situated three-fourths of a mile north of Abie, where also stood the rectory and small hall. On that date the church (already once rebuilt) burned down. A new brick church was then erected in town, on land donated by James F. Pavel, and the rectory moved there. The church was finished in the fall of 1919 and consecrated June 29, 1920.

APPLETON, BUTLER COUNTY—BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

The first church was built in 1877 on Peter Malý's land. From that date until 1890 Rev. Joseph Hovorka of Abie held services every third Sunday. In that year (1890) a severe windstorm destroyed the church and the parishioners decided to build another in a more favorable location. Anton Šonka donated the site and in 1891 Rev. Joseph Koutek, successor to Rev. Hovorka in Abie, held first services in the new building. He used to come once a month until 1897, when he died and was succeeded by Rev. Francis Žalud, who served in Appleton from Abie until 1902, when he was transferred to Bruno, and until 1921 served in Appleton from there. In 1921 he was succeeded by Rev. Francis Černý, born July 31, 1879, in Záboří, educated in Budějovice, ordained July 22, 1906, by Right Rev. Bishop Joseph Řípa, in Budějovice. He remained in Bohemia until October 1, 1920, came to Nebraska March 1, 1921, and in October, 1921, began to serve in Appleton from Bruno. Rev. Černý endeavored to make Appleton a regular parish, but did not succeed. After his departure for Texas, Rev. Žalud again served from Bruno. He was succeeded in Bruno by Rev. Bauer, who also took care of Appleton. In the spring of 1923 Rev. Černý returned from Texas and with the permission of Bishop O'Reilly a rectory was built and Rev. Černý became first resident priest, until April, 1924.

He was succeeded by Rev. R. Verhelst (not a Czech) who remained until January, 1926, when Rev. Václav Pokorný, the present incumbent, succeeded him.

BEE, SEWARD COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

In 1910 eighteen families in Bee and vicinity decided to build a church and the same was erected in dimension 36x80 feet, with a steeple 75 feet high, on two lots. This church was built through the efforts of Monsignore Alois J. Klein of Brainard, who founded the congregation and served the first mass October 19, 1910. The church was consecrated by Bishop Tihen. Rev. Michael Pazourek, incumbent in Dwight, took care of the congregation until May 7, 1918, when Rev. Joseph F. Bauer became the first resident priest. Rev. Bauer bought thirteen lots, in addition to the two on which the church stands, and the residence of Jacob Sedlák, for $7,500.00. The residence became the rectory, so that now the parish owns half a block. January 1, 1922, Rev. Bauer was succeeded by Rev. Fr. Žalud, present incumbent.

BRAINARD, BUTLER COUNTY—BLESSED TRINITY:

As early as 1884 an attempt was made to organize a parish and build a church. On February 2nd of that year a meeting was held, attended by thirty-two members and a committee chosen, but difference of opinion prevented any conclusion. It was not until 1887 that two lots were bought and plans made for building a church. On May 6, 1887, Rev. Jordan Stutz served the first mass, another on August 7, and again on November 6 of that year, all in a public school building. In the fall of that year a church 36x60 was erected, all of the work being done by the parishioners. On May 30, 1888, the first mass in it was celebrated by Rev. Stutz. Rev. Matěj Bor, then incumbent in Wahoo, Saunders County, began to take care of the congregation in March, 1889, coming once a month. In November, 1889, Rev. Bor was succeeded in Wahoo by Rev. Alois J. Klein, who continued coming to Brainard even after he was transferred to Crete on December 10, 1891. On August 15, 1892, Rev. Klein called a meeting for the purpose of making plans to provide a rectory and in February, 1893, the home of Mr. J. T. McKnight, a banker, was bought for the purpose. On September 5, 1893, Rev. Klein was transferred from Crete to Brainard, becoming the first resident priest, which place he still holds. He is now the oldest, in point of service, of the Czech priests in Nebraska and has been longer in one parish than any other. Because of his long and tireless efforts in organizing congregations and building churches, rectories and schools, and because of his literary ability, special mention is made of him together with several others under the heading "Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction."

On October 7, 1896, the church was consecrated by Bishop T. Bonacum, of Lincoln. On June 10, 1906, the cornerstone of the new church, for twenty years the largest and most stately Czech church in Nebraska, was laid. This building cost over $47,000, the main steeple being 109 feet high and containing three chimes, dedicated by Bishop Bonacum on June 30, 1909. An organ, costing $3.600,00, is part of the furnishings. The entire amount was collected from the surrounding countryside. Rev. Klein, now Monsignore Klein, also built

Blessed Trinity Church in Brainard

a school building costing $52,000, where classes in ten grades are taught. More detailed mention of it is made in the chapter on schools. A rectory, costing $25,000.00, was built in 1927.

BRUNO, BUTLER COUNTY—ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA:

In 1899 T. J. Roche of David City received $1,000 from A. Hirst of Philadelphia, a lawyer, as a gift with which to build a church for poor Catholics in Nebraska. Upon consultation with M. Mahoney, a banker in David City, they decided to help the Czech Catholics of Bruno. A church was therefore built and dedicated October 10, 1899. From that time to January 31, 1901, Rev. Francis Žalud used to serve from Abie. Rev. Žalud was born in 1866 in Libická Lhota, near Chotěboř. He studied in Telč and Německý Brod, theology in Brno, Moravia, and finished in Louvain, Belgium, where he was consecrated a subdeacon by Cardinal Gooseuse and ordained by Bishop Mershart. He came to Nebraska in 1893, serving in Crete, Wilber, Plasi and Abie. While in Abie he built the church in Linwood, which was consecrated by Bishop Bonacum. Rev. Alois J. Klein succeeded him, coming from Brainard, until October, 1901, during which time he built a rectory. He was in turn succeeded by Rev. Žalud, who now became resident priest and took care also of Appleton. July 29, 1904, a tornado destroyed the church and a new one, 40x84, was built and consecrated November 16, 1904. Rev. Žalud was succeeded by Rev. Jos. F. Bauer, present incumbent, in 1922. Rev. Bauer was born April 18, 1877, in Hrachovec, Valašsko, Moravia, studied in Kroměříž, Valašské Meziříčí and Olomouc, in which latter city he was ordained July 5, 1902. In 1913 he came to this country. Until 1918 he was at Solon, Iowa, and until 1921 in Bee, where he was first resident priest and was instrumental in purchasing thirteen additional lots. In Bruno he helped to put in improvements costing $5,000.00.

CEDAR HILL, SAUNDERS COUNTY—SACRED HEART:

A Mr. Noteware, in 1868 Superintendent of Immigration for the Union Pacific Railroad Company, lived in Cedar Hill and was a friend and advisor to the Czech settlers, who used to gather for worship in a public school building. He donated forty acres of land on which to build a church and his wife, Mrs. Henrietta Coltan Noteware, helped him in building and furnishing same. The church was consecrated in 1880 by Rev. V. Kočárník (by other accounts in 1879 by Rev. Cyril Augustinský, who had taken care of the congregation for some time). It was Rev. Augustinský who got the committee together and planned the church, 40x60 in size. Until 1901 this mission was assigned to various parishes: Columbus, Fremont, Abie and Plasi. Thus Rev. Augustinský was succeeded by the Revs. Čoka, Kočárník, Koutek, Žalud, Stutz, Hovora, Bor and Vlček (in later years from Plasi), Rev. Vlček being the last of these. In 1901 Cedar Hill was attached to the parish of Prague, since which time priests serve from there. During Rev. Hančík's time (when he was in Prague) the church was remodelled and a lodge hall built.

COLON, SAUNDERS COUNTY—ST. JOSEPH:

A mixed Czech-Irish parish, Rev. A. J. Miller, present incumbent.

CLARKSON, COLFAX COUNTY—SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS:

The cornerstone of the church was laid August 15, 1902, when Rev. Petlach of Howell took care of the congregation, but there was no resident priest. From 1902 to 1905 Rev. Bednář (his successor in Howell) took care of the congregation until 1905, when he was succeeded by Rev. Charles Žák, also from Howell. The parish was incorporated February 11, 1907, and in that year Rev. Joseph Báta became resident priest. In 1918 a rectory was built, costing $11,000. In 1920 the church was remodelled. Rev. Báta was succeeded August 25, 1921, by Rev. Charles Z. Petlach, the present incumbent.

CRETE, SALINE COUNTY—ST. LUDMILA:

From 1872 to 1875 Rev. Francis Bobal visited Crete occasionally, as a missionary priest. During his time the Czechs of Crete and Wilber wished to erect a church, but Rev. Bobal disapproved, owing to lack of Czech priests. In September, 1873, Rev. Fr. Ferd. Lechleitner (not Czech) took charge of Crete and its missions, until April 1, 1881.

Czechs who understood German attended St. James church. In May, 1878, Rev. J. Smutný of Wilber took care of Crete, but he died the next year. From 1877 to 1885 two Benedictine priests, Rev. Václav Kočárník and Rev. Siegfried Klíma, aided in serving and in June, 1885, Rev. Francis Pold S. J. took charge until April, 1888, when he was recalled to Bohemia. Until May, 1889, the priests in Wilber looked after Crete. In November of that year Rev. E. A. Bouška became first resident priest. He purchased several lots with a school building thereon, which he remodelled into a rectory and built a frame church 36x64, which was consecrated by Bishop Bonacum on November 30, 1890, in honor of St. Ludmila, a Bohemian saint.

Rev. Bouška was born November 18, 1865, in Borovany near Tábor, ordained in Chur, Switzerland, July 14, 1889. In 1891 differences between him and the bishop arose, which terminated in his leaving the church. In 1894, after due expiation, he was re-instated. The bishop in question was of a pugnacious temperament, some of his many altercations with priests resulting in lawsuits. In December, 1891, Rev. Bouška was succeeded in Crete by Rev. Alois J. Klein, he in September, 1893, by Rev. Francis Žalud, he in March, 1897, by Rev. Joseph Bartík, who was resident in Milligan and came at intervals. Rev. Bartík was succeeded in August, 1897 by Rev. Fred Henn (not a Czech) from Wilber, he in November, 1898, by Rev. Joseph Kuen (not a Czech), he in July, 1899, by Rev. Václav Pokorný, and he in February, 1902, by Rev. Adolph Mosler (not a Czech). Rev. Mosler was succeeded in February, 1904, by Rev. Bartík, he in February, 1905, by Rev. Anton Bednář, he in May, 1906, by Rev. Jaroslav Hančík, who used to come from Plattsmouth, and from November, 1908, to February, 1915, was resident priest. From 1915 to 1917 Rev. Mosler again had charge and in that year the parish was abolished, owing to lack of support. The property was sold and the proceeds transferred to the Sacred Heart parish, in which church Czech Catholics of Crete worship.

DAVID CITY, BUTLER COUNTY—ST. MARY:

A mixed parish. Priests from Brainard, Bruno and Abie come to

serve the Czechs, at intervals. Rev. Francis W. Čadek, a Czech priest, was there September 7, 1922, to July 30, 1925, as assistant to Rev. Sproll, then he was transferred to Deweese.

DEWEESE, CLAY COUNTY—ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

From July 9, 1909, to February 9, 1912, Rev. Joseph Blacha took care of the congregation and about that time (1912) built the church and rectory. Rev. Blacha was born in Silesia, Austria, February 10, 1876, was educated in Ivrea, Italy, S. Trond, Belgium, and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland, where he was ordained June 12, 1909, by Cardinal Gibbons and served his first mass in Wahoo, Nebraska. He remained in Deweese until 1912. Between 1912 and November 21, 1915, Rev. Alois Gryc and Rev. Victor Mlejnek were incumbents. Rev. Gryc was born June 19, 1880, in Ruprechtov near Vyškov, Moravia, ordained July 30, 1905, came to Kansas in 1909, then to Iowa and then to Deweese. From November 21, 1915, to the fall of 1917 Rev. Francis Kopecký had charge, when he was succeeded by Rev. Jaroslav Hančík, who used to come from Crete and who also took care of Loučky. While in Deweese Rev. Hančík was instrumental in gathering $1,600.00 to help free Bohemia during the World War. On November 1, 1923, Rev. Hančík was succeeded by Rev. Ignác Skopal and he in turn by Rev. O. Schlachter (not a Czech) to July 30, 1925, when Rev. Francis Čadek, the present incumbent, took charge. Rev. Čadek was born August 30, 1890, in Chicago, Illinois, educated there and in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was ordained by Bishop Glennon on June 10, 1922.

DODGE, DODGE COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

In 1883 some of the Czech parishioners of the mixed parish at Olean, Colfax County, became dissatisfied and met in F. Chudomelka's farm home, where they decided to establish a cemetery, which they did five miles east of Olean. Frank Karník and John Staněk each donated two and a half acres for the purpose. On February 3, 1884, a meeting was held, when it was decided to build a church. The lumber was brought from Scribner and Rev. Francis Tuerk consecrated both church and cemetery. In 1886 the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad built to Scribner and the town of Dodge was established, the church building then being removed there. The first mass in Dodge was celebrated in 1889.

In 1890 the church was made a mission and Vicar-General V. Čoka and his assistant Rev. J. Macourek conducted services. On January 4, 1891, Rev. J. Rech came from Vienna, but returned there the following May. He was the first resident priest. Rev. Čoka and his assistant Rev John Hodyc then served from Omaha and were followed by Rev. John Vránek and his assistant Rev. Joseph Chundelák. At this time a new church was built and consecrated on November 12, 1893. On January 1, 1894, Rev. John Stephen Brož took charge. While in Dodge Rev. Brož had charge of Howell. In 1894 a rectory was built and the church furnished and in 1911 the first Catholic school in the state, where Bohemian is taught, was erected and established, through the efforts of Rev. Brož. For biography see

"Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction." In September, 1918, Rev. Brož was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Drbal, he in turn by Rev. C. Z. Petlach, on May 30, 1920, and in August, 1921, Rev. John N. Turek succeeded Rev. Petlach. Rev. Turek, of whom more detailed data was not obtainable, was an exceptionally good musician, which helped to keep the young people together. In September, 1922, he left for Lidgerwood, North Dakota, and was succeeded by Rev. Edward Čepuran. Rev. Čepuran was transferred to Omaha in January, 1923, and was succeeded by Rev. Wenceslaus (Václav) Havlíček, the present incumbent. Rev. Havlček was born September 14, 1889, in Horní Lukavice, Plzeň, studied classics in Budějovice, philosophy and theology in Fribourg, Switzerland, where he was ordained July 16, 1916. He came to New York April 20, 1920, to Omaha on May 7th of that year, a week later was appointed to Verdigre, then transferred to Dodge.

DRY CREEK, COLFAX COUNTY—ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

A country church, built in 1881. Priests from Heun served until the parish in Schuyler was established, since which time they serve from there.

DWIGHT, BUTLER COUNTY—ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

The beginnings of this parish date from the time when at the close of 1895 several Catholic families organized to purchase a cemetery site. On February 19, 1896, the first burial was conducted by Rev. Alois J. Klein, for a child named Mary Hotový, and he was requested to take care of the members at intervals. He hesitated until permission from the bishop should arrive to formally separate Dwight from the parish of Brainard. Rev. Joseph Bartík of Milligan was therefore invited and he served the first mass in a public school building on March 1, 1896. Upon the advice of Rev. Klein the members of the cemetery association petitioned the bishop, asking leave to establish a parish and this was granted. On April 21, 1896, Rev. Klein served mass in the school house and later was instrumental in building a church 32x68, where he celebrated the first mass on September 8, 1899. He also furnished and improved the structure, founded a number of societies, added one acre of land to the cemetery, enlarged the church site, purchased a rectory and erected a lodge hall. In March, 1900, Rev. Václav Pokorný began to come from Crete, but February 11, 1901, Dwight again was made a part of Brainard, Rev. Klein in charge. July 1, 1910, Rev. Michael Pazourek became first resident priest. He was born January 6, 1884, in Střelice near Brno, Moravia, studied in Old Brno, Brno and Kroměříž, finishing in St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland, where he was ordained by Cardinal Gibbons June 21, 1910. He celebrated his first mass in Nebraska in Abie, in the old church, June 29th and shortly after was sent to Dwight, although the rectory was not ready, so he lived in Brainard. On August 1 he settled there and had charge until October 15, 1924. Aside from Dwight, he took care of the parish in Bee from 1910 to 1918 and in 1920 in Loma. In October, 1924, his health being not of the best, he took a vacation and feeling that his strength was not sufficient for a large

parish, was transferred in January, 1925, to Wilber. He was succeeded in Dwight by Rev. Ferdinand Suesser, the present incumbent, who was born February 8, 1867, in Křetín, Moravia, educated in Olomouc and the Gregorian University of Rome, where he was ordained by Cardinal Respighi in 1899. He came to Nebraska October 15, 1919.

During Rev. Pazourek's time the parish prospered, the debt was paid and in 1912 a hall built. In 1914 a new church, 43x115, was built, costing with furnishings $30,000. In 1921 a school, costing over $100,000. Three lots were bought, so that now the parish owns a whole block (300x420) besides the land (125x130) on which its building stand. In 1910 there were 80 families in the parish, now there are 182.

FAIRBURY, JEFFERSON COUNTY—ST. MICHAEL:

A mixed parish. Neighboring Czech priests come at intervals to hear confessions. Rev. J. J. Carey is present incumbent.

FAIRFIELD, CLAY COUNTY—ST. ALOYSIUS:

A mixed parish. From March, 1907, to January, 1909, Rev. Matěj Němec took care of the Czechs and from July, 1909, to February, 1912, Rev. Blacha. The present incumbent is Rev. McTighe.

HEUN, COLFAX COUNTY—BLESSED TRINITY:

In the years 1871 and 1872 Rev. Ewing of West Point held services in the homes of settlers. Between 1873 and 1875 Rev. Francis Bobal and Rev. Šulák, missionaries, alternated. From 1876 to 1879 Rev. John A. Blaške served regularly. In 1878 it was agreed to build a church and establish a cemetery, for which purpose John Folda and Wilhelm Heun each donated five acres of land. A church 30x60 was built, with Rev. Blaške as incumbent. He was succeeded by Rev. Cyril Augustinský, who used to come from Columbus, and he in turn by Rev. Francis Tuerk of Olean. Then a rectory was built and Rev. Philip Malý was transferred from Crete. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Hovorka of Abie, who served until 1890. From 1890 to 1894 Rev. John Hodyc was incumbent, then from 1894 to 1897 Rev. John Vlček and from 1897 to 1904 Rev. Charles Žák. During Rev. Žák's time, in 1903, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the church was celebrated. In 1905 Rev. Joseph Drbal, born April 18, 1874, in Osek, Moravia, ordained July 30, 1899, in Linz, Austria, came to the United States August 25, 1904, became incumbent, having served a few months previously as assistant in Greeley Center. In 1915 Rev. Drbal was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Báta, he in 1917 was succeeded by Rev. Francis Szczepuchowski (a Pole, called by Czechs Čechopovský). In 1918 Rev. Bartík began to come from Omaha (where he died February 1, 1919). For a year thereafter various priests from the vicinity looked after the congrega-

Rev. Joseph Drbal

tion and in 1920 Rev. Anton Folta, the present incumbent, took charge. He was born in Stará Bělá, Moravia, came to this country in 1913 and worked here as a miner. Having saved some money, he studied in Milwaukee and was ordained May 14, 1919, in St. Cecilia's Cathedral in Omaha, by Archibishop Harty. He celebrated his first mass in St. Wenceslaus Church in Omaha, and until January, 1920, was assistant to Rev. Vránek there, at which time he was transferred to Heun.

HOWELL, COLFAX COUNTY—ST. JOHN:

During Rev. Brož's incumbency in Dodge, he used to take care of this parish. In 1901 Rev. Charles Z. Petlach began to conduct services regularly. Rev. Petlach was born January 2, 1872, in Blansko, Moravia, ordained in Vienna in 1895, came to the United States in November, 1898. At first he was incumbent in Kearney, to December 1, 1901. In 1902 he was succeeded in Howell by Rev. Anton Bednář, who in turn was followed by Rev. Charles L. Žák, in January, 1905. Rev. Žák served until his death on April 17, 1920, when the present incumbent, Rev. Joseph Drbal, was transferred from Heun. The cornerstone of the church was laid in May, 1893. The congregation has grown from 28 to 150 families.

LAWN, BOX BUTTE COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

This postoffice is now abolished. In the late eighties and early 90's there were several fair-sized Czech colonies in Box Butte County, but the drouths drove many away. The parish of Lawn was established in 1888 by the following: Joseh Pánek, Thomas Hovorka, Joseph Turek, Ignác Studený, Joseph Štika, John Pokorný, Frank Procházka, Joseph Šabatka, Václav Turek and Vojtěch Melmer. The first church, built by Joseph Turek of logs brought from the Pine Ridge country, later was replaced by a nice frame building, 22x30. In the early nineties the following priests conducted services: Rev. John St. Brož, Rev. Ladislav Klouček (born in Chrudim, came to Wisconsin in January, 1900, in 1904 went to Cleveland, Ohio) and Rev. Charles Žák. The parish now is not entirely Czech and priests from Chadron take care of it. During Rev. Brož's time the poor homesteaders suffered greatly as a result of drouth, even drinking water being scarce. Some had to bring it from the Niobrara river, six miles distant. There never was a rectory, consequently no resident priest.

Another Czech parish in the vicinity was east of Hemingford, the same county, where Rev. Brož held services in the sod house of a Mr. Urbanovský. Mrs. Urbanovský arranged a table, decorated it with prairie flowers and Rev. Brož supplemented with such altar furnishings as he could bring in a valise. Later a sod church was built, the parishioners hauling cedar and fir logs from a forest thirty miles distant. Of these rafters and pews were made. These churches at Lawn and Hemingford at the time were the westernmost Bohemian churches in Nebraska, but neither remained as originally established. The parish in Lawn is now a mixed one, and the Hemingford church has been abandoned altogether, some of the parishioners now belonging to the mixed parish in Hemingford.

LAWRENCE, NUCKOLLS COUNTY—SACRED HEART:

A mixed parish. In 1892 the German and Czech parishioners (the

latter in a minority) who were affiliated with the rural church in St. Stephen two and a half miles from Lawrence desired to build their own church, but the incumbent of St. Stephen, Rev. Jordan Stutz, would not agree, fearing it would weaken his parish. However, they persisted and in 1893 did build a church. Inasmuch as it was a mixed parish, it was desired to get someone who could preach in several languages and August 27, 1893, Rev. Alois J. Klein, then incumbent in Crete, celebrated the first mass in the new church, preaching in Bohemian, German and English. This was repeated on November 22, 1893. Rev. Francis X. Hovora (who already in 1889 had been for several months in St. Stephen) became the first Czech incumbent in 1900. During his time a frame school was built. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Fleckinger, Rev. B. Sproll and Rev. Chas. Becker (all non-Czechs). Rev. Becker was instrumental in building a new brick school which was consecrated October 24, 1917, and a new brick church was dedicated in 1925. When the parish in Deweese was established, the number of parishioners in Lawrence decreased.

LINWOOD, BUTLER COUNTY—NAME OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

Prior to 1901 priests from Abie and Cedar Hill looked after Linwood. In that year a church was built and dedicated September 8, 1901. The parish was affiliated with Abie and priests from there serve.

LOMA, BUTLER COUNTY—ST. LUKE:

In 1908 a committee was elected under the guidance of Rev. Al. J. Klein of Brainard, for the purpose of building a church. In 1909 two lots were acquired in town and an acre of ground for a cemetery. In 1911 the church was built, 36x76, costing with furnishings $5,300.00. Rev. Klein used to come from Brainard every third Sunday until November 30, 1915. During his time the church was furnished and in 1912 consecrated by Bishop Tihen. On October 1, 1915, the parish was placed under Touhy and Rev. Victor Mlejnek became incumbent. It prospered, the debt was paid and the church decorated inside. In September, 1919, Rev. Mlejnek was succeeded by Rev. Alois Gryc, but in December of that year he had to resign temporarily on account of illness. Rev. Michael Pazourek used to come from Dwight until September 22, 1920, when Rev. Francis Kopecký took up the charge, coming from Touhy, until September 15, 1925. Then Rev. Pazourek again conducted services for a month and on October 25, 1925, bishop F. J. Beckman made it a regular parish, with Rev. Michael Pazourek as first resident priest.

LYNCH, BOYD COUNTY—BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

Rev. Václav Kroupa, who was in Spencer from 1900 to 1908, built the church in Lynch and conducted services there. Some time later Rev. Francis Tománek had charge and built a Catholic hospital. In 1918 Rev. J. Krajíček (born December 24, 1889, near Lawn, Box Butte County) was sent to Lynch for a few months. He studied in Atchison, Kansas, Menlo Park, California, and St. Louis, where he was ordained June 14, 1917, by Archbishop Glennon. He served his first mass in Lidgerwood, North Dakota, and was assistant to Rev. Vránek of Omaha until July, 1918, when he was sent to Lynch. There he

built the rectory. This parish now is a mixed one, those named having been the only Czech priests.

MILLIGAN, FILLMORE COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

The first priest was Rev. Joseph Bartík, who was born January 13, 1857, in Dolní Záhoří near Písek, where he studied and later in České Budějovice, being ordained there July 16, 1882, by Bishop Jirsík. In this country he first had charge of the church in Cascotown, Wisconsin, in 1889, when he came to Milligan, remaining there to 1902, when he was transferred to Plattsmouth. In 1905 he was transferred to Lesterville, South Dakota, and later to Omaha, where he died February 1, 1919. In Milligan he was succeeded by Rev. A. Mosler (not a Czech) who used to come from Crete until about 1908. He was succeeded by Rev. Francis Kopecký, who became incumbent on February 28, 1914. In the interim neighboring priests served. Rev. Kopecký was born October 25, 1885, in Jičín, educated there and in Králové Hradec, where he was ordained by Bishop Doubrava. He came to Nebraska January 2, 1914, from that time to February 28 was assistant in Crete and then was sent to Milligan. Rev. Kopecký was followed on November 14, 1915, by Rev. V. Supík who was born in Bohemia in 1868 and came to this country with his parents when two years old. He became a member of the Redemptorist Order, was a priest in New York, then Baltimore and then came to Milligan. In January, 1926, he was transferred to Prague and died in an Omaha hospital on April 6, 1926, is buried in Baltimore. The present incumbent is Rev. Verhelst, not a Czech.

NETOLICE, NOW GERANIUM—VALLEY COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

This parish was established in 1882 and some of the founders were: Joseph Ptáčník, Matěj Novotný, Vojtěch Hošek, Frank S. Hošek, John Princ, Joseph Novotný Sr., Joseph Kokeš, Martin and Frank Papoušek, Václav Studlar, Jacob Kosmata and Vojtěch Parkos. The name Netolice was chosen because most of the parishioners had come from a town of that name in Bohemia. The church was built on Václav Studlar's land, the cemetery being on his land also, about twelve miles west of Ord. The first priest who conducted services was Polish, Rev. Klaviter, who lived nearby on his homestead. Soon after that Czech priests from Warsaw (near St. Paul in Howard County) began to serve, as follow: Rev. Philip Malý, Rev. John St. Brož, Rev. John Vlček and Rev. Joseph Chundelák. When a rectory was built in 1899, Rev. Matěj Němec became first resident priest, serving there until 1906, since which time there is no resident priest. Rev. Němec's biography is given in the history of Wahoo parish. From 1906 to 1908 priests came from Warsaw and when in 1908 the parish in Ord was established, Rev. W. Kroupa being first incumbent, took care also of Netolice. He was succeeded by Rev. Ferdinand Suesser, and he by Rev. Bartholomew Chudáček. After Rev. Chudáček's departure, Netolice was placed under Sargent, whence Rev. Hinzman (not a Czech) served. His successor, Rev. Stockmeier, now takes care of the congregation. In 1892 the first church was replaced by a large one, built by Rev. Brož.

ODELL, GAGE COUNTY—BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF PERPETUAL HELP:

This is a mixed parish. In the early eighties the members met for services in each other's homes, Rev. August Rausch (a Silesian) and Rev. Philip Malý coming at intervals. In 1886 a church was built by Czech and Irish parishioners, and in 1888 Rev. Malý became incumbent. A year and a half later he returned to his native land. From

St. Wenceslaus Church in Valley County

that time until 1902 priests from neighboring Czech parishes used to come, but since then there has been none. The present incumbent is Rev. J. F. Bonenkent, who comes from Lincoln.

OMAHA, DOUGLAS COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS, ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, ST. ADALBERT, ST. ROSE (Mixed):

St. Wenceslaus—The first Czech priest to conduct services was Rev. Francis Bobal, as missionary. In July, 1877, when Rev. Václav Kočárník arrived, it was decided to provide for a church. Rev. Kočárník was born March 8, 1845, in Kutná Hora and in 1866 entered the

St. Vincencius Monastery of the Benedictine Order in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, where he was ordained July 17, 1874. He came to Omaha in 1877 and in 1880 was transferred to Plasi, Saunders County, from there going to Chicago in 1885, where in 1894 he was made prior of the Bohemian Benedictine Monastery of St. Procopius. He died there May 14, 1912.

Bishop O'Conner of Omaha, in 1877, bought the dance hall and saloon owned by Václav Kučera situated on South Thirteenth Street, between William and Pierce. Rev. Kočárník made the hall over into a church, the saloon into a school and Kučera's home into a rectory. Rev. Kočárník was succeeded by Rev. Siegfried Klíma O. S. B., who had charge until 1881, but the income was small, the parishioners few and poor, so he could not stay. As an example of those times, Rev. Kočárník, in order to gain a sustenance, conducted a grocery store in Plasi. In the interim between 1881 and 1885—priests from St. Joseph's Hospital assisted, with Rev. Kočárník coming from Plasi once a month.

Rev. William Čoka

Rev. Edward J. Čepuran

In 1885 Rev. Vilém (William) Čoka came from Chicago and took charge. He was born in 1840 in Černovír near Olomouc, ordained in the latter city on July 5, 1866. He came to Omaha from the largest church then in the United States, that of St. Procopius in Chicago. In 1887 the new church, in use at present, was built through his efforts. In 1889 he was named vicar-general and when Bishop O'Connor was ill, he was named administrator of the Omaha diocese. Later, owing to unfortunate circumstances caused by dissension, he left the Czechs and was priest in Monterey, Cuming County, serving also in Snyder, German communities. He did not do this because he ceased being a Czech at heart, for he never did, but because he desired to find peace amid other surroundings. He died in an Omaha hospital on July 16, 1902, and left the memory of a kindly priest who preached and lived the gospel of love.

Rev. Čoka was succeeded on January 8, 1893, by Rev. John Vránek. For biography see "Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction." At his

death he was succeeded by the Rev. Edward J. Chapuran (Čepuran) M. A., who was born in Omaha, Nebraska, January 30, 1898, his parents being John Čepuran and Josephine Fanferlík. He studied in Creighton University, Omaha, St. Procopius College and Seminary, Lisle, Illinois, and was ordained in St. Cecilia's Cathedral, Omaha, on July 1, 1922, by Archbishop Harty. He offered first mass on July 2, 1922, in St. Wenceslaus Church, where he had been baptized as a babe and where he was appointed assistant to Rev. Vránek. From September 1, 1922, to January 12, 1923, he was in Dodge, when he was recalled to Omaha to assist Rev. Vránek, whom he has succeeded and is the present incumbent. During Rev. Chapuran's college and seminary life, he helped to organize various activities for the benefit of Czechs. Himself a musician, he was active in music and orchestra work in the St. Procopius' College, Lisle, Illinois, and his work in constructive and practical sociology earned him the title of Master of Arts, conferred upon him by the Creighton University, Omaha, May 2, 1924. In cooperation with Professor Charvat he succeeded in putting the Czech language on par with others taught in the University, being director of the Czech Department there and also has charge of the Apologetic and Latin Departments at Mt. St. Mary's College, Omaha.

ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—SOUTH OMAHA:

This church is situated in what is called South Omaha, although now a part of Greater Omaha. In 1893 Rev. Vránek called a meeting of those who were interested and who had been organized by Rev. Čoka, and it was decided to buy the northwest corner of 22nd & U Streets, two lots for $1100.00. In 1894 Rev. John Hodyc built the church which cost $3,000.00 and was consecrated January 6, 1895. For biography see "Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction".

Rev. Hodyc was succeeded by Rev. Charles C. Žák (born August 31, 1869 in Krnsko near Mladá Boleslav, and ordained in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 9, 1893). He first served in western Nebraska, then in Heun and then in South Omaha, where he was succeeded in January, 1905, by Rev. John Vlček. Rev. Vlček was born November 16, 1866 in Mladíkov near Vimperk, ordained in Budějovice, July 17, 1892, and came to the United States March 22, 1893, participating in service in West Point, St. Paul, Heun and South Omaha. In 1900 he was transferred to Plasi, and died February 5, 1923, in Hora, Vlkovnice, Bohemia. His successor in 1900 was Rev. Anton Bednář, born in Chvalkovice, Vítkov, Moravia, studied in Přerov, theology in Olomouc, where he was ordained July 5, 1893, by Cardinal Fuerstenburg. He came to the United States January 20, 1900, and South Omaha was his first incumbency. In November 1902 he was sent to Howell, and in December 1904 went to Pennsylvania, where he died February 15, 1907. He is buried in South Omaha. His successor in 1902 was Rev. Joseph Chundelák, born January 20, 1868, in Kamenné Zboží, Mladoboleslavsko, ordained in Omaha, January 5, 1893, where he was appointed assistant to Rev. Vránek. In January 1894 he was transferred to St. Paul, Nebraska, and in October 1902 to South Omaha, where he died September 9, 1918. He was succeeded by Rev. John St. Brož, who too died there a year later, September 2, 1919. Rev. Brož was succeeded by Rev. J. Krajíček, present incumbent, whose biography is given in the history of Lynch parish.

Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Church in South Omaha

ST. ADALBERT, OMAHA:

In September, 1916, about forty families, living south of Hanscom Park, petitioned Archbishop Harty for permission to establish a new parish in their territory, which was granted. On September 25, 1916, three and part of a fourth lot on South Thirtieth Street, between Gold and Wright Streets, were purchased by the committee consisting of: Anton J. Barák, Anton B. Chapek (Čapek), Joseph and John Kotrba, Joseph Pecha and Frank Novotný. In October 1917 the Rev. Leopold Blaschko, at the time assistant to Rev. Vránek of St. Wenceslaus Church in Omaha, was appointed pastor of the new parish to be organized. On October 10, 1917 the parish was incorporated under the name of St. Adalbert's Church of Omaha, Nebr. In April 1918 the present rectory and part of a lot on 30th. & Wright Streets were purchased and contract let for the erection of a two story brick building. In May 1918 the cornerstone was laid and on Christmas Eve, 1918, the first mass celebrated in the new church, located in the basement of the new building, the two upper floors serving as a school and residence of the sisters. The solemn dedication did not take place until September 12, 1919, by Archbishop Harty. In 1919 an auditorium was erected and enlarged in 1921. On August 28, 1924 an additional lot on 31st. & Wright Streets was purchased, making the total value of the property to date about $65,000.00. During the school year 1919—1920 two sisters were in charge of the school, in the fall of 1920 the Ven. Sisters de N. D. took charge.

Rev. Leopold Blaschko, the first incumbent, was born October 31, 1885 in Lomy, Bohemia, a village near Jindřichův Hradec. On May 17, 1902, he came to this country, locating at Stuart, Nebraska, and worked on a farm for several years. He was anxious to obtain a higher education. After attending the Stuart High School, he studied classics in Conception College, Conception, Missouri, philosophy in St. Procopius' College, Lisle, Illinois, and then Bishop Scannell of Omaha sent him to Almo Collegio Capranica, Rome, Italy, from where he attended the Gregorian University. On account of the World War he was recalled by the bishop after a two years' sojourn in Italy and completed his theological studies in St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. There he was ordained on April 3, 1917, by Bishop J. Trobec and the day following was assigned assistant to the late Rev. (Monsignore) Vránek of St. Wenceslaus Church in Omaha, where he remained to January 1, 1919, when he became incumbent of St. Adalbert's. Easter Sunday 1917 he celebrated his first mass in St. Wenceslaus Church, Omaha, and April 10, 1917, his first solemn high mass in St. Boniface Church, Stuart, Nebr. While assistant at St. Wenceslaus, he organized St. Adalbert parish and built the church and school. As president of the Hanscom Park Improvement Club, with the cooperation of City Commissioner Joseph Koutský, the streets adjoining the street property were graded and paved in the spring of 1925, changing Sheeley district into a fine residence district. Rev. Blaschko died in the spring of 1927.

ST. ROSE, OMAHA:

This is a mixed parish, although Rev. Francis B. Tománek, a Czech priest, established it in May 1918, and services were held in the German

Home, on South Thirteenth Street. The present incumbent is Rev. A. M. Senger, not a Czech.

ORD, VALLEY COUNTY—BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF PERPETUAL HELP:

The parish was organized July 19, 1908, with Rev. Václav Kroupa as first resident priest, he being transferred from Spencer. Previous to that time, priests used to come from St. Paul and Warsaw in Howard County, and from August 1899 Rev. Matěj Němec, who had become incumbent in Netolice (Geranium) attended to the wants of the congregation. He was succeeded by Rev. Jooka (not a Czech) from Sargent and Rev. Macourek from St. Paul, Nebr. In the fall of 1908 Rev. Kroupa began building the church, which was finished the following winter, at a cost of $6,000.00. In the meantime services were held in various places. In 1913 Rev. Kroupa built the rectory, at a cost of $4,000.00. In March 1914 he was succeeded by visiting priests until August, when from August 1914 to October 1919, Rev. Ferdinand Suesser served. From October 1919 to June 1921 Rev. Bart. Chudáček was incumbent, and he was followed by Rev. Michael Lawler (not a Czech) for the parish now is a mixed one. Since his coming Netolice have been annexed to Sargent and Rev. Lawler devotes his entire time to Ord.

PLASI, SAUNDERS COUNTY—SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS:

This parish was originally called Plzeň (Pilsen), then changed to Plasi, as it conflicted, in mail delivery, with Pilger, Stanton County. Rev. Francis Šulák, a missionary priest, served the first mass in the farm home of a pioneer, Joseph Šimánek, in September 1871. He alternated with Rev. F. Bobal, serving in homes or school buildings. In 1873 forty acres of land were bought and a cemetery established. In 1877 building of a church was begun and in March 1878 the first services were held by Rev. Václav Kočárník, the first resident priest. After his departure in 1885, the parish was without a priest for six months, Rev. Čoka coming from Omaha. In October 1885 Rev. Jordan Stutz (not a Czech) took charge. He was succeeded for a short time by Rev. Philip Malý. During Rev. Stutz's time, inasmuch as he was a German, dissension arose, and it was not until the latter part of 1889, on October 4, when Rev. Francis Hovora came, that peace ensued. In 1900 Rev. Hovora left for Lawrence, Nebr. and later for Pennsylvania. He was born Nov. 21, 1865 in České Budějovice, came to the United States in 1888 and was ordained in Lincoln, Nebr., on February 5, 1889. His successor was Rev. John Vlček. On April 14, 1901, the church burned and Rev. Vlček built a larger one. In April 1910 Rev. Vlček was succeeded by Rev. Victor Mlejnek, to August 2, 1914, and he by Rev. Alois Gryc, who served from December 14, 1914 to July 20, 1919. From October 1919 to November 10, 1920, Rev. Francis Kopecký was incumbent, from December 1920 to January 24, 1926, Rev. Václav Pokorný. From January 24, 1926, Rev. Ignác Skopal, the present incumbent. Rev. Ignác (Hynek) Skopal was born December 14, 1884, in Nasoburky near Litovle, Moravia. He studied in Olomouc, theology in Obořiště near Příbram and became a member of the Redemptorist Order. He was ordained in 1909 and served a while in his native land. During the war he was in hospitals and on the Italian

front, as a field curate, and received a silver cross (piis meritis) for his services in comforting wounded soldiers, Austrian and Italian (prisoners) alike. After the war the bishop in Lincoln, Nebraska, requested two Bohemian priests and Rev. Skopal came in October 1923, first as assistant to Rev. Matěj Bor in Weston. His first charge was in Deweese, from where he took care of the mission in Loučky, to August 1924. He was then transferred to Prague, and on January 24, 1926, to Plasi.

PLATTSMOUTH, CASS COUNTY—BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF THE HOLY ROSARY:

The first Czech priest in Nebraska Rev. Bobal lived in Plattsmouth for some time in 1872 and thereafter, and he built a church dedicated to St. John of Nepomuk (although there was no Czech parish then) in the place where the German-American church of St. John The Baptist now stands. In those days it was the church for all the Catholic inhabitants of the town. After his departure, Rev. Philip Malý, S. J., used to come from Wilber, to serve Czechs. The first Czech priest to come regularly was Rev. Koutek, who came from Abie and during whose time, in 1890, the present church was built, 1510 West Pearl Street. In 1891 Rev. Bouška used to come from Crete and from 1892 to 1901 Rev. M. Bor used to come from Wahoo. He was succeeded by Rev. Václav Pokorný from Crete, during whose time, in 1902, the rectory was built. In February 1902 Rev. Joseph Bartík was made the first resident priest, and he stayed until January 1905. After his departure, Rev. John Novotný used to come from Prague, and succeeding him, Rev. Anton Bednář from Crete. In 1906 Rev. Jaroslav Hančík was appointed resident priest, taking care also of Prague, Touhy and Crete. In 1908, when it was thought necessary to abolish the school in the neighboring parish, for lack of attendance, Bishop Bonacum requested the parents of Bohemian children to send the latter there and the majority obeyed. In November 1908 Rev Hančík was transferred to Crete, which at the time was a mission belonging to Plattsmouth, and Plattsmouth was left under the parish that is in charge of Monsignore M. A. Shine. On June 1, 1910 Rev. John Vlček was made incumbent. In October 1919 he was succeeded by Rev. Ferdinand Suesser, who came from Ord. Rev. Suesser stayed until August 5, 1924, and was succeeded by Rev. Jaroslav Hančík, the present incumbent. Among the founders of the parish are the Našil, Svoboda, Janda, Vostrejš, Novotný, and Vetešník families and their descendants. The strike in the Burlington & Missouri Railroad Company shops in 1922 caused many families to move to Sedalia, Mo. and other places. At present the parish numbers about 70 families. During its existence, all of the time Cyril Janda has been organist.

Rev. Jaroslav Hančík

PRAGUE, SAUNDERS COUNTY—ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST:

Prior to 1901 the Catholic inhabitants of Prague attended the church in Plasi. In 1901 the church in Prague was built and Rev. John Vlček used to come from Plasi to hold services. In 1904 Bishop Bonacum made Prague a regular parish, with Cedar Hill annexed to it. The first resident priest was Rev. John Novotný, who was born in Boskovice, Moravia, in 1873, ordained July 31, 1898, in Brno, Moravia. He came to the United States on October 7, 1904. Rev. Novotný had charge of the church in Plattsmouth, besides of course that in Cedar Hill. In 1908 he was transferred to Abie, having also Linwood in charge, and then he moved to Chicago. In 1908 Rev. Václav Pokorný succeeded Rev. Novotný, and he in turn was succeeded by Rev. Martin Bogar in 1920. Rev. Bogar was born September 5, 1877, in Blatnice, Moravia. He studied in Uherské Hradiště, where he graduated with honors. He finished his studies in Olomouc, where he was ordained in 1900. For fifteen years he labored in his native diocese, then after a severe illness, while recuperating, he travelled in Germany, Belgium, England and America. In Chicago he learned that there was a dearth of Czech priests here, so he applied to the Lincoln diocese. From 1920 to 1923 he was in Prague, then to 1925 he visited in his native country and since 1925 he has been in Touhy. While in Prague he built a school that cost $30,000. Notre Dame sisters teach, Czech being a part of the course. Rev. Bogar was succeeded in 1923 by Rev. Jaroslav Hančík, who was succeeded in 1925 by Rev. Ignác Skopal. In January 1926 Rev. Václav Supík succeeded Rev. Skopal, who went to Plasi. Rev. Supík died in Omaha, April 5, 1926.

RAVENNA, BUFFALO COUNTY—OUR LADY OF LOURDES:

The church was built in 1887 and Rev. V. Čoka and Rev. Philip Malý used to come at intervals. Between 1890 and 1893 it was a mission belonging to St. Paul, Howard County, and Rev. Brož and his assistant Rev. Vlček used to take care of it from there. In 1894 it was annexed to Grand Island and Rev. Hodyc took care of it. Following that it was placed under Broken Bow and in 1895 put back under St. Paul, when Rev. Chundelák from there served. Between 1897 and 1899 Rev. Anton Duda used to come from Broken Bow. Rev. Duda was born June 11, 1871, in Hoštice near Výskov, Moravia, ordained in Louvain, Belgium, June 29, 1895, and came to Nebraska in that year. In 1900 he moved to Iowa, now living in Winona, Minnesota. Rev. Duda was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Chundelák (1899—1902) and he by the first resident priest, Rev. Jaroslav J. Hančík. Rev. Hančík was born May 14, 1875, in Tábor, of an old patrician family. He studied in Tábor and later in an agricultural academy, where he graduated (in Tábor) in 1895 and obtained a position on the estates of Count Harrach in Sadová. In 1897 he accepted the offer of John Rosický of Omaha, for he wanted to learn English, and so he became assistant editor of Rosický's farm paper Hospodář. He found he did not care to continue that work, so six months later he entered the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was ordained in Omaha, by Bishop Scannell, on November 29, 1901. He was made assistant to the priest in O'Neill, where he took care of the English-German parish in Clearwater and the English one in Stafford. Three months later he became assistant in West Point, where he took care of the

German parish in St. Charles and the English in Stanton. Five months later he was sent again to O'Neill. In February 1903 he was made first resident priest in Ravenna, where he took care of the German mission in Schneider and the German-English in Prairie Center. He served in both every other Sunday, making the trip of forty miles by wagon, the alternating Sundays in Ravenna, where he preached in English and Czech. Rev. Duda had tried to have a rectory built in Ravenna, but was unsuccessful. Rev. Hančík, with the aid of the missions, was able to do it. He also took care of the station in Mason City and a German station on the open prairie, where there were but a few frame buildings and a sod schoolhouse. After three years he wished a change and was transferred to the Lincoln diocese. In February 1906 he was made incumbent in Plattsmouth and his activity from that on is listed in the various parishes where he was incumbent.

Rev. Hančík was succeeded in Ravenna by Rev. Joseph Macourek, the present incumbent. Rev. Macourek, vicar-general of the Grand Island diocese, was born October 5, 1867 in Troubky, near Přerov, Moravia. He studied in Přerov and in 1888 went to Belgium, where he studied four years and in June 1892 was ordained in Louvain. On September 10, 1892, he came to Omaha, where he assisted Rev. Čoka. Rev. Macourek attended to the needs of Czech Catholics in South Omaha, who at that time had no church and met in St. Agnes Church to have mass and sermons in their language. At that time too Rev. Macourek took care of Dodge, which was a mission belonging to Omaha. Four months later he was sent to Creighton, Knox Co., where he served nine years in a German-Irish parish, going from there to Verdigre (Czech), Pierce (German), Bloomfield (Irish and German), Osmond (German) and Schoolcraft (Czech) missions. He built the church in Pierce. He was assigned Lynch and Spencer in Boyd County, eighty-five miles west of Creighton, where he used to go by wagon for two years, twice a year, to preach and hear confessions in Czech, German, English, Polish and French. In 1901 he was made resident priest in Verdigre, where he built a rectory. In 1902 he was sent to St. Paul, in 1906 to Ravenna, where he now is. He used to travel 260 miles west to Lawn, Box Butte County, also to Lodge Pole, Cheyenne County, 277 miles west. Each place had about twenty Catholic families, whom he served thus. From Ravenna he goes twice a month to Schneider Township, where the church of St. Wenceslaus is situated, serving twenty families, and thirty families in the German church of St. Joseph, in that township.

Rev. Joseph Macourek

SARGENT, CUSTER COUNTY—ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

A mixed parish. Rev. Jos. Hinzman (not a Czech) is incumbent. Priests from neighboring parishes take care of the Czechs at intervals.

ST. ANN, FRONTIER COUNTY. A mixed parish, the priest from McCook serving.

ST. PAUL, HOWARD COUNTY—SS. PETER AND PAUL:

A mixed Czech-Polish-Irish-German parish. In 1889 a brick church was built at a cost of $3,500.00 by the Czechs and Poles. At the time there were only about three Irishmen, later more came. The first priest, Rev. Eugenius Geary (Irish) came in July 1889, but the first resident pastor was Rev. John St. Brož, from October 1890 to January 21, 1894. Rev. Brož had in charge also the St. Wenceslaus parish in Warsaw and missions in Custer, Valley and other western counties. His assistant was Rev. John Vlček. Rev. Brož was succeeded by Rev. Jos. Chundelák, he in 1902 by Rev. Jos. Macourek, who was transferred to Ravenna in 1906. Rev. Macourek was succeeded by Rev. Jos. Rose (German), he in September 1908 by Rev. P. Groeble (German). Rev. Groebel began to plan the building of a new church and in his time the old building was torn down. But this priest was succeeded, after dissension arose, mainly with his German parishioners, by Rev. C. E. Hovorka, an energetic Czech priest, who effected harmony. The church was built at a larger cost than was contributed and the parish labored under a debt. Rev. Hovorka was born February 11, 1884 in Montgomery, Minn., studied in Atchison, Kansas and St. Paul, Minn., was ordained June 11, 1908. He was assistant priest in Grand Island, then resident priest in St. Paul, to October 1911, when he returned to Minnesota. He was succeeded by Rev. Jos. Gebauer (Polish), who in September 1912 was succeeded by Rev. Michal Gruppa (Polish), he by Rev. Manning (Irish), he by Rev. Jasczynski (Polish), and he by Rev. John Gleason, present incumbent. This parish never had much significance for the Slovania colony.

SCHUYLER, COLFAX COUNTY—ST. MARY:

In the fall of 1913 Rev. Francis B. Tománek came to Schuyler to organize a Czech parish. Rev. Tománek was born June 25, 1882, in Moravia, educated there and in Pozony, Hungary; Innsbruck, Austria; Fribourg, Switzerland and St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was ordained May 29, 1913, by Bishop Lawler. In 1914 he was assistant to the pastor of the Holy Family Church in Omaha. After leaving Schuyler in 1915 to 1918 he was absent on leave, between 1919 and 1921 he was pastor in Lynch and in 1922 he left the state. Before a church could be built, services were held in the old church of the Irish congregation, which building was rented for the purpose. In the spring of 1914 a site was purchased by Mrs. Anton Svátora and Mrs. Agnes Lapáček, for $1,100.00, on 11th and Banner streets and donated to the newly organized congregation. Before the year 1914 came to a close, services were being held in the new church. In the early part of 1915 Rev. Tománek was transferred and was succeeded by Rev. Jan St. Brož, during whose incumbency the church was decorated and two bells purchased, the parish debt amounting to $3,000.00 cleared and progress made under his able leadership. Rev. Brož was transferred to South Omaha in September, 1918, and for a time there was no resident priest until the appointment of Rev. John Krajíček, in the early part of 1919. He was also transferred to South Omaha a year later and in October, 1919, was succeeded by Rev. John Vlček, who left for Europe in October, 1920, and for a few months again there

was no resident priest. In January, 1920, Rev. John Turek took charge and left eight months later. Rev. John Sekera was assistant during Rev. Turek's incumbency, attending to the mission in Wilson. In August Rev. Turek was succeeded by Rev. Báta and in that year Rev. Sekera returned to Bohemia. In January, 1923, Rev. Báta was succeeded by Rev. Joseph J. Vítko, the present incumbent. Rev. Vítko was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 22, 1897. He made his classical studies, two years of philosophy and one year of theology in St. Procopius College, Lisle, Illinois, two years of theology in Ssts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan, and his final year of theology in St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained on July 1, 1922, for the Omaha diocese. He received his first appointment in August, 1922, as administrator in Schuyler, during the absence of Rev. Báta, who was visiting his native land. Upon the return of the latter, in December, 1922, Rev. Vítko was assigned to assist in St. Wenceslaus Church, Omaha, from where he was appointed to take charge of the congregation in Schuyler. The present value of the church property amounts to about $16,000.00, no debts. At present there are about sixty-five families in the parish.

SCHNEIDER, BUFFALO COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

Established in 1913 and taken care of twice a month by Rev. Joseph Macourek of Ravenna.

SPENCER, BOYD COUNTY—BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

This is at present a mixed parish, taken care of, as far as Czechs are concerned, by the priest in Verdigre. The first resident Czech priest was Rev. Václav (Wenceslaus) Kroupa, who was born April 24, 1874, in New York City, N. Y., educated there and in Cincinnati, Ohio, ordained in the Cathedral of New York by Archbishop Corrigan on June 24, 1898. He was assistant to the priest in Chadron from July, 1898 to 1900, when he became incumbent in Spencer. He stayed there until July, 1908, when he was transferred to Ord. From Spencer he served in several other places. He built a large church in Spencer, to replace the little one, and a fine rectory. In Lynch he also built a church, where he used to serve, fifteen miles east of Spencer. He built a church in Baker, ten miles northwest of Spencer, another in Butte, ten miles west of Spencer, and took care of Basin, twenty-two miles west of Spencer. All of these parishes were partly Bohemian, and since his departure have dwindled, for he was a gifted organizer and builder. From Ord he went to New York where he now lives.

STRATTON, HITCHCOCK COUNTY. A mixed parish, Rev. Jos. Haskamp (not a Czech) serving from Benkleman.

TÁBOR, COLFAX COUNTY—NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

A country church situated six miles east of Howell, in Colfax County. In May, 1870, two covered wagons left Omaha with the families of Joseph F. Šindelář, Thomas Šindelář, F. J. Jonáš, Thomas Dostál and Václav Šindelář (single). They settled on Maple Creek, in Colfax County. On Christmas Day, 1871, those of the Catholic faith met for the first time in the sod house of Joseph F. Šindelář, for service. In that year Rev. Ewing, a German priest, came a few times from St.

Charles (near West Point) and served on the farm of Peter Schad, five miles northwest of Tábor. Later in the year he went to the farm home of Peter Lodl for the purpose, as did Rev. Šulák and other missionaries. Inasmuch as in 1871 the settlers came in large numbers, they endeavored to build a church the following year, but all were poor beginners; they could not raise the money. So on Sundays and church holidays they gathered in the home of Joseph F. Šindelář. He was known as Joseph Šindelář then, but later another of the same name came and he added the initial. They came from far and wide, so that by ten o'clock a goodly crowd had gathered. At half aften ten, when the bell hung on the window-frame had been rung by Joe (Jos. B. Šindelář) they entered for worship. The altar was a plain wooden cross. After a song by the congregation, one of the older men conducted mass, which was sung, then another read from the Scriptures. This was followed by the sermon. Joseph Krajíček, a settler, used to be bell ringer in Bohemia and had received from a priest two old books containing sermons, which were very useful in this emergency. Joseph B. Šindelář (son of Joseph F.), who has furnished data for the history of this church and the names of the founders given below, was born in Jíčkovice, Milevsko, Bohemia, November 11, 1853, and came to the United States when fourteen years old. He attended public schools in Chicago and Nebraska, moving to the latter place in 1870. Later he took a homestead near Howell, which he still owns. When the town of Howell was established, he moved there and engaged in general merchandise and creamery business, being now retired. He served two terms as justice of the peace, one term as county assessor and nineteen years as precinct assessor, besides serving in the legislature as representative from the twenty-seventh district. The following are the names of the founders of the parish of Tábor: Joseph F. Šindelář, born in Jíčkovice, Milevsko; Joseph Šindelář, born in Stehlovice; Thomas Šindelář, Stehlovice; Václav Šindelář, Stehlovice; John Šindelář, Jíčkovice; Joseph Krajíček, Římovice; Joseph F. Krajíček, Římovice; Frank Štrudl, Jíčkovice; John Štrudl, Jíčkovice; Joseph Mejstřík, Vilímov, Habry; John and Joseph Průša, Koštejn; Joseph Kašpar, County of Tábor; Matěj Dostál, Velká Volešná, M. Brod; Joseph B. Svoboda, Všehrdy; Joseph Houfek, Kněžice, Čáslav; Heřman Mestl, Strejčkovice; John Němec, Špacice, Chotěboř; Václav Janouš, Hořš. Týn, Plzeň; Frank Spévák, Špacice, Chotěboř; Joseph Břicháček, Jíčkovice; John Pojar, Strýčkovice; Joseph Míšek, Okřesanec, Habry; Václav Hruška, Stuparovice, Habry; Frank Konvalin, Habry, Čáslav; Frank Evert, Strýčkovice and Frank Semerád, Frydnava, Habry.

In 1874 a public school was built and services conducted therein. By that time the members were able to build a church. However, a church had already been built in Heun, eight miles west, and those living near joined that congregation, which depleted the ranks of the one in Tábor. Later they succeeded in building a church which was consecrated September 1, 1880, by Rev. Francis Tuerk, who named the settlement Tábor, because it is easily pronounced in English. Joseph Šindelář (not the Jos. F.) donated three acres of land for the church and cemetery and also made the first contribution in money. Joseph Kašpar brought the first load of brick from Schuyler, Joseph Krajíček the first load of lime. Jos. B. Šindelář, as an officer of the church, laid

the first brick (only one), Joseph F. Šindelář drove in the first nail. Frank Strudl did the masonry work. Miss Barbara Hájek, now Mrs. F. K. Šindelář, made the first wreath when the church was roofed, and the first child to be christened there was Frank, son of Jos. B. Šindelář. The first couple to be married there were Joseph F. Krajíček and Anna Vlasák. The first burial was that of the infant of J. B. Svoboda and the first adult Joseph Šindelář, who had given the site.

From this church issued the first procession of pilgrims, after the fashion in the old country, to Heun and Olean. The young girls came first, carrying the statue of the Virgin on a litter pedestal, then came Mr. Frank Vondruška's band, then the choir with its leader, and the remainder of the participants followed. The procession walked thus about half a mile, then got into wagons and proceeded. There were no buggies or carriages in those days, to say nothing of automobiles.

There has never been a resident priest. The following have served from Heun: Rev. Joseph Hovorka, to 1890. Rev. John Hodyc, 1890—1894. Rev. John Vlček, 1894—1897. Rev. Charles Žák, 1897—1904. Rev. Joseph Drbal, 1905—1915. Rev. Joseph Báta, 1915—1917. Rev. Francis Szczepuchowski (Čechopovský), 1917—1918. Rev. Joseph Bartík, 1918—1919. The following year various priests took their turn and in 1920 Rev. Anton Folta, the present incumbent in Heun, serves. Rev. Szczepuchowski was born January 24, 1864, in Wittenburg, East Prussia, educated in Baden, Fribourg, Switzerland, and ordained July 13, 1913, in Geneva by Bishop Bouvet. In 1914 he was assistant to Rev. Fr. Gluba, the Polish priest in South Omaha, in 1917 he was in St. Joseph Hospital, Omaha, and in 1918 in Primrose. In 1919 he left on a leave of absence.

TASOV, HAYES COUNTY (POSTOFFICE ELMER):

A mixed parish, the priest from McCook serving. In 1889 a small church was built and the parish named Tasov at the request of Rev. Philip Malý, for his native town. The first mass was celebrated by him July 30, 1889. Rev. Anton Duda took care of it later, but there is no Czech priest there now.

TOBIAS, SALINE COUNTY—ST. JOSEPH:

A mixed Czech-Irish parish. Established in 1913 by Rev. Adolph Mosler of Crete, who used to come. The priests from Odell used to come to the close of 1914. In 1915 Rev. Francis J. Kopecký used to come from Milligan each Sunday, once for early mass, once for high mass, thus alternating. In 1916 Rev. Václav Supík, also of Milligan, served in the same manner, until January, 1926, when Rev. Verhelst (not a Czech), present incumbent in Milligan, succeeded him.

TOUHY, SAUNDERS COUNTY—ST. VITUS:

The first step toward organizing the Czech Catholics in Touhy and vicinity was the founding of a lodge of the Catholic Workman, in 1897, by Anton B. Chapek and Rev. Alois J. Klein. It was under the spiritual guidance of St. John's Church in Weston. In 1902 a parish was organized, with Rev. Matěj Bor of Weston, chairman; Frank Hrubý, secretary and F. J. Hakel, treasurer. The name of St. Vitus was chosen. The site was purchased from Mr. Widman, plans were made by Jacob Ort of

Wahoo and the church erected by James O'Donnell of Wahoo. It is a frame building inside, surrounded by a brick wall outside. The cornerstone was laid May 6, 1903, and the church completed in September. On October 7, 1903, the church was dedicated by Rev. Rippenberger, who acted in the capacity of the Bishop of Lincoln. The cost of the site, building and furnishings was $8,000.00. The first pastor was Rev. M. Bor, who came every third Sunday from Weston. Later other priests have rendered their services, some for a longer period, namely: Rev. John Vlček, Rev. Victor Mlejnek, and some for a shorter time, as Rev. Jaroslav Hančík, Rev. Anton Bednář, Rev. Alois Gryc. In 1913 a rectory was built and Rev. Francis J. Kopecký became first resident priest. Rev. Kopecký was born in Jičín, October 25, 1885, educated there and in Králové Hradec, where he was ordained October 31, 1909, by Bishop Doubrava. At present Touhy is an independent parish with Rev. Martin Bogar as incumbent, and over eighty parishioners.

ULYSSES, BUTLER COUNTY:

A mixed parish, containing about thirty Czech families, who are served by neighboring priests. The incumbent, Rev. J. J. Loughran, is not a Czech.

VALPARAISO, SAUNDERS COUNTY:

A mixed parish, although it numbers a great many Czechs, who are served by neighboring priests. Rev. L. L. Mandeville, present incumbent, is not a Czech.

VERDIGRE, KNOX COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

The first priest to preach here was the missionary Rev. Francis Šulák, who came at intervals, but the people were too few and too poor to build a church until 1884. Beginning with 1880 Rev. Joseph Křížek used to come at times from Tábor, South Dakota. In May, 1885, the first mass was celebrated in the church, the site for which was donated by Joseph Mladý, the building being 26x36. Later Rev. Chas. Kolín came twice a year from Atkinson, Holt County. Rev. Kolín was born January 7, 1865, in Malá Chýše, Bohemia, ordained June 24, 1888, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1888 he was assistant in O'Neill and in 1889 was in Atkinson. More data unavailable. He came to Verdigre twice a year. From 1890 to 1893 Rev. John Vránek used to serve this mission. Between 1893 and 1901 Rev. Joseph Macourek came from Creighton, then became resident priest until 1902, succeeded by Rev. Chas. Z. Petlach, during whose time the new church was built and dedicated October 25, 1916. May 30, 1920, Rev. Petlach was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Báta, present incumbent. Rev. Báta was born August 10, 1886, in Lhota, near Skuteč, Bohemia. He attended grammar school in Zbožnov, then in Vysoké Mýto and later studied in Hradec Králové, where he was ordained in 1908, by Bishop Brynych. He came to the United States August 1, 1913, and served at first as assistant in St. Wenceslaus church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, coming to Nebraska January 28, 1915, first to Heun, then to Schuyler.

WAHOO, SAUNDERS COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

The first Catholic Czech settlers in the vicinity were: W. Simondynes, Jacob Novotný, Thomas Zimola, Frank Konecký and Frank Noha,

who came to Wahoo August 15, 1874, from Kouty, Moravia. They used to go sixteen miles to hear Rev. Bobal preach in the school house near Plasi. The following year another party of emigrants arrived from Moravia, and Rev. Bobal said the first mass for them in the farm

St. Wenceslaus Church in Wahoo

house of Frank Konecký, two and a half miles from Wahoo. On July 9, 1877, Rev. Francis Šulák came from Chicago, and held services Saturday and Sunday in the public school in Wahoo and Monday in the court house, the first mass said for Czechs in the town of Wahoo. That day the first Czech wedding occurred, that of John Simondynes and Antonie Svoboda. When mass was not served in Plasi, these people used to go to Fremont, twenty-two miles distant.

On November 17, 1877, Rev. Joseph Hovorka of Abie held services in the court house and married John Prokeš and Anna Simodynes. The necessity for having a church became evident and a meeting was called in 1877. The plan of buying a large store in Cedar Hill and using it for a church was discussed, but it was thought too far and a decision reached to build a church in town, which was begun in July. 1878, and finished the same year, 30x50, a perfect imitation of the church in Plasi. Rev. Václav Kočárník from Plasi celebrated first mass at the close of the year and visited the congregation every third Sunday. From September 28, 1884, to October 4, 1885, Rev. Jordan Stutz (not a Czech) came to serve, when he was succeeded by Rev. V. Čoka of Omaha who used to come twice a month until February, 1889. On March 9, 1889, Rev. Matěj Bor was assigned as pastor of Wahoo, Weston and Brainard, with residence at Colon. Two months later he moved to Wahoo, where a rectory had been built costing $1,000. October 9, 1889, Rev. Bor was succeeded by Rev. Alois J. Klein, who remained until November, 1891. During Rev. Klein's time a new church was built on Linden Avenue, at a cost of $3,600. The work was begun in the spring and finished in December, 1891. After Rev. Klein's departure Rev. Bouška served twice and was succeeded by Rev. M. Bor, who again became pastor February 6, 1892. He celebrated the first mass in the new church on June 5, 1892. In the spring of 1893 the house was removed from the old place to the new church and enlarged. The dedication of the new church and the sacrament of confirmation to sixty-two persons was administered by Bishop Bonacum on July 4, 1895.

Rev. Bor continued in the pastorate of this church until February 27, 1915, when he was succeeded by Rev. Jaroslav J. Hančík in February, 1915, who cleared the debt of $4,000 on the school and instituted the teaching of Czech therein. In September, 1916, he was succeeded by Rev. Matěj V. Němec. The splendid St. Wenceslaus school was built in 1911 and is a credit to the Catholics of Wahoo and vicinity. Rev. Němec immediately made plans for the building of a larger church, much needed, but the World War intervened. At the close thereof agitation was renewed and the following building committee elected: Frank Vybíral, treasurer, Louis J. Kudrna, Anton Havelka, John Zimola, Anton Králík, Joseph Tomek, Václav Pelan, Mathias Hobza, Jacob Sladký and the pastor Rev. Němec. About $80,000 was subscribed in three weeks and a handsome Gothic structure completed in 1922. The church was dedicated on the feast of St. Wenceslaus (or St. Václav, a Bohemian saint, called the patron of Bohemia) September 28, 1924, by Rev. James A. Duffy, Bishop of Grand Island. As the site was just large enough for the building, Rev. Němec purchased two and a half lots across the street, north of the church, for $4,100.00 to replace the old rectory, which was sold and removed from the premises. This property was remodelled and paid for before the building of the new church was undertaken. Two other lots, south of the church, costing $1,200, were purchased, to provide a playground for the children of St. Wenceslaus school. The new church cost approximately $100,000. Altogether the improvements made in the parish, since Rev. M. Němec took charge, amount to $108,000.

Rev. Matěj V. Němec was born in Omaha, February 12, 1875, his parents being Frank Němec and Mary (nee Budín) from Soběslav. They came to this country in 1871. He made his college studies in St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas, graduating there June 20, 1893. Having been accepted as a clerical student into the diocese of Omaha, he was sent to Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he completed his philosophy. He was then sent by the Omaha bishop to St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, being the first theological student sent there from Nebraska. February 4, 1899, he was ordained in the chapel of St. Mary's Convent on 14th and Castellar streets, by Bishop Scannell. His first charge was a German parish in Petersburg, Nebr., where he remained to August 15th, when he was sent to Geranium, Valley County. He began the task of collecting funds for a rectory, but as the countryside had been suffering from the effects of a prolonged drouth, it was not an easy task. Geranium was merely a postoffice station, about twelve miles west of Ord. While there Rev. Němec was obliged to lead the life of a hermit for about seven and a half years. As the nearest neighboring priest resided about thirty-five miles away, Rev. Němec had to attend all the sick calls within about three counties. For about four years he also attended to the spiritual needs of the Polish mission at Bolesczyn, six miles north of Geranium. His health failing, after persistent requests for a transfer to a more comfortable church situated on a railroad, he was sent to Dodge, in November, 1906, where he had charge during Rev. Brož's illness. On March 21, 1907, Rev. Němec took charge of the church in Fairfield and the Czech mission in Loučky, about eight miles south of Fairfield. At the latter place he built a church costing $6,000. While at Fairfield he was commissioned to provide for the spiritual needs of Czech Catholics in Clay, Webster and Nuckolls counties, and served five times a year to the thirty-five Czech families in Lawrence. January, 1909, he was placed in charge of Abie, where he paid off a debt of $1,200 and had the church and parsonage remodelled and painted at a cost of $700. September 16, 1916, he was transferred to Wahoo, which parish consists of about 150 families, 95 percent of which are Czechs or their descendants. The main altar of the new church, costing $1,750, was donated by Joseph Tomek, a member. Rev. Němec is present incumbent.

Rev. Matěj Němec

WARSAW, HOWARD COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

A country church, named for the postoffice of that name (which is a mile away to the southeast), and for the precinct in which it lies. This was the first Catholic church built in Howard County and one of the first Czech churches in the state. The building of this church is so closely connected with the development of the Czech colony Slovania and is so typical an illustration of the beginnings and evolu-

tion of the first Czech settlements, that a more detailed account will not be amiss.

In 1876, when the need of a cemetery was felt, the settlers accepted Martin Slobodný's offer of two acres of land in the northwest quarter of Section 10, Township 14, Range 11, for that purpose. Anton Francl's child, buried in the northeast corner, was the first inhabitant. The majority of the settlers were Catholics and not having a church as yet, they set a large wooden cross in the cemetery ground and worshipped before it. In the spring of 1877 the Burlington & Missouri (now the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy) Railroad began to sell its lands (every other section in a larger part of the county). The settlers decided to ask the company to give them a piece of land as a gift, whereon to build their church and Peter Vacek was sent as emissary in the matter. The railroad company sold them forty acres (southwest quarter of southwest quarter 3-15-11) for $50.00 and they bought another forty acres at $4.00 per acre.

A meeting was called and the following elected officers: Anton Chalupský, president (chairman); Martin Vacek, secretary; Martin Slobodný, treasurer; Vojtěch (Albert) Ševčík and John Holeček, trustees. It was agreed that each settler contribute $10.00 and $60.00 was gathered. Building material was bought in Grand Island for this and credit given for the rest. (A. Chalupský has furnished part of this data.)

The next problem was to find a carpenter. There was none in the settlement, but George Leftwich had built his dwelling and a chicken-coop and therefore was considered to have had some experience. He had a hammer and a saw, he borrowed a carpenter's square and with the help of all the settlers the work went forward. A structure 16x28 was erected and divided into two compartments. One served for the priest's dwelling, the other for the church. When finished, it became apparent that a chimney would be needed. There was no mason and so Václav Toman offered to build it gratis, which offer was gratefully accepted. Martin Papoušek and Frank Bárta, two young men recently arrived from Winona, Minnesota, helped Toman. Papoušek did the carpentering work and labored under some difficulty, for he spoke in English to Toman, who could not understand him. Bárta, who was hod carrier, had to interpret. When Sunday came and the settlers congregated for service, much criticism was heard to the effect that the chimney was crooked in three different places, but Toman explained that that was the way chimneys were built in the city of Kutná Hora, Bohemia, whence he had come.

While the church was being built, Rev. Francis Šulák from Chicago, a missionary priest, held services. In that year, too, Rev. Klaviter, a Polish priest, came from Pittsburg, Pa., for the purpose of viewing the lands, thinking to establish a Polish settlement and brought with him a cook and organist, but they had nowhere to stay. Rev. Klaviter thought that they might lodge in the Bohemian church temporarily and the settlers agreed. There was no furniture and no kitchen utensils, but the Poles were not discouraged. They drove two stakes into the ground, stretched a wire, hung their pots and pans on it and began preparing meals. When the settlers came to church on Sunday, Rev. Klaviter taught the housemothers how to cook Polish foods. The

organist soon learned to play Czech songs, the priest learned to read in Czech and everybody was satisfied.

The Polish settlers began to arrive in large numbers and settled west of the Czech church, in the western part of Howard County and eastern part of Sherman County, almost altogether on Burlington & Missouri railroad lands. As mentioned elsewhere, railroad companies were given every other section of land along their route, by our government, and in the spring of 1877 this company put theirs up for sale. The Poles, through their agent John Barzynski, held the sole rights to buy these lands for a term of two years. In 1878 they built a church in 13-14-12, about five miles southwest of the Bohemian church, where the railroad company in question had donated a quarter section and built an immigration home, for the temporary lodging of their settlers. The land was platted into lots and every Pole who bought land got one lot free. This settlement was called Poznaň (Posen). Rev. Klaviter, their priest, also took care of the church in Warsaw. In 1878, St. John of Nepomuk Day, the members of the Warsaw congregation met and plowed the larger portion of the church land. About a year later this priest was transferred and was succeeded by Rev. Sebastyanski. who took care of both congregations. In August, 1880, he was succeeded by Rev. Alexander Matoušek, who in that same year was succeeded by Rev. Philip Malý. Rev. Malý took care of the Warsaw congregation until November, 1883, serving also the Poles. In his time the Warsaw church was enlarged and a lean-to, sacristy and sanctuary were built, which improved the appearance of the building. When Rev. Malý left, Rev. Stuer, who was priest of the Polish church in Chojnice, a Polish settlement in the northwestern part of the county and Rev. Sebastyanski of Poznaň, alternated. November 22, 1890, the parish came into the care of a diligent Czech priest, Rev. John Stephen Brož, who was resident priest in St. Paul, a mixed German-Polish-Czech-Irish parish. Rev. Brož took great interest in the purely Czech parish of Warsaw and during his time (1890—1894) it improved greatly. The young people learned to read and write Czech, through the endeavors of Rev. Brož, who instituted many beautiful Czech customs. Pilgrimages in the form of picnics at Warsaw, arranged by him, were visited by thousands of participants. Beautiful old Czech songs were sung in church by the entire congregation and it would be difficult to describe the sensations of these pioneers when their lovely and ancient religious songs, at midnight services, pealed forth and were borne through the silent night over the snowy Warsaw prairies. The Warsaw church was always filled to overflowing by Catholics and non-Catholics, who came to listen to the inspiring sermons of this priest, a gifted speaker, an idealist and an ardent Czech patriot. Through his efforts the cemetery was improved and in 1892 a fine bell was bought. Rev. Brož gave fifty dollars for this purpose, out of his scanty pay. The building of a new church was discussed, but 1893 was dry and the following year was made memorable in the whole state by a terrible drouth, no crops whatever being raised. And in that year too (1894) Rev. Brož was transferred to another parish. His absence left a vacancy never since restored and his departure was deplored by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Rev. John Vlček was his assistant. He was followed by Rev. J. Chundelák, Rev. Anton Duda being his assistant.

The year 1895 was better and in 1896 very good crops were raised, but prices for grain and corn were low. Those farmers who in 1894 had to sell stock, having no fodder, were obliged to sell corn for 9 or 10 cents per bushel, for they had nothing to feed it to. The following two years brought normal conditions and the congregation again began to think about building a church. A meeting was called and with the permission of Rev. Chundelák, subscriptions sought. C. V. Svoboda gave $200, Albert Ševčík $300, Joseph Trubl $150, Frank Manasil $100. Joseph Trubl, Jacob Bláha and Albert Ševčík visited the members as a committee and got $2,017.00. Plans for a brick church were accepted, but no contractor could afford to put up a building like that for the contributed sum. Therefore C. V. Svoboda, who owned a brickyard in company with A. Gruber, offered to build the church for $2,737.50. This was done and on St. Wenceslaus Day (the patron saint of the church) the new building was consecrated. Mr. Svoboda received what money had been contributed, $500 was borrowed on the property and the balance of cost of the building was paid by him personally. Clementina Svoboda bequeathed $100 for church furnishings and pews were bought for $310.00, the difference being paid by the congregation. In that year the altar society bought a fine new altar and in 1911 side altars, which were embellished the following year by a statue of the Virgin Mary, presented by Mrs. Katherine Ševčík and a statue of St. Joseph, presented by Mrs. Mary Svoboda. As mentioned before, this parish is under the parish of Ss. Peter & Paul, in St. Paul, the priests of which latter church serve here.

Rev. Chundelák was succeeded by Rev. Macourek, he by Rev. Jos. Rose (a German), he by Rev. P. Groebel (a German) and he by Rev. C. E. Hovorka, a Czech priest. Rev. Hovorka was succeeded by an Irish priest, when differences arose and these were smoothed out through the offices of Rev. Brož. Once again, and for the last time, did the Czech congregation meet in Warsaw church to hear their beloved priest, the one who had left in their minds and hearts a cherished memory. He was followed by Revs. Jos. Gebauer, Michal Gruppa, and Jasczinski, Poles, and Rev. John Gleason, Irish, the present incumbent.

The Czech language is seldom heard in the Warsaw church. No longer do the beautiful Czech songs of a by-gone time echo over the Warsaw plain! True, Revs. Rose and Gleason learned to pray and read in Czech, for the sake of their Czech parishioners, and Jacob Bláha, with some of the older members, prays in Czech at the close of the services, and occasionally a Czech priest is called at the express wish of the old parishioners—but they are diminishing and the fingers of one hand almost suffice to count the remainder. The time is not far distant when, as Rev. Brož says: "The bell will toll, in heartrending tones, for the last sermon of a Czech priest in Warsaw." The time is not distant when the dear Czech language will vanish and only the Czech inscriptions and names on the monuments in Warsaw cemetery will remind the passer-by of the fact that there lie loyal Czech pioneers, who struggled for a livelihood and a better future of their descendants. (Written by C. V. Svoboda, St. Paul, Nebr.)

WESTON, SAUNDERS COUNTY—ST. JOHN OF NEPOMUK:

The first mass for Czechs in this vicinity was celebrated by Rev. Jordan Stutz in the home of a Mr. Fajmon and communion administered. In July, 1885, a lot was bought, although the parish numbered only eighteen families, and a church built, 24x30. The first services were held that year. Until 1889 Rev. Čoka and Rev. Stutz alternated, then Rev. Matěj Bor began to come from Wahoo. In November, 1889, he was succeeded there by Rev. Alois J. Klein, who also took care of Weston. In 1891 he was instrumental in enlarging the church building, adding five lots to the church site, increasing the membership from 32 to 140 families, completing the organization of the congregation and founding three sodalities. He was succeeded February 11, 1901, by Rev. Bor, who used to come from Wahoo every other Sunday until February 27, 1915, when he was made resident priest. Rev. Bor built the rectory in 1914 and retired September 17, 1925. His biography is given in the history of Wilber parish. His successor is Rev. F. J. Kopecký, present incumbent.

Rev. Matěj Bor

WEST POINT, CUMING COUNTY—ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN:

This is a mixed, largely German parish, taken care of at present by Rev. E. A. Klementz from Beemer. There have been no resident Czech priests, although Rev. Hančík and Rev. Vlček assisted for a time. Rev. Čoka was incumbent in Monterey, this county and in 1900 Rev. Lad. Klouček was there also. No other records of Czech priests.

WILBER, SALINE COUNTY—ST. WENCESLAUS:

The building of the first church was begun in 1878, across the street from Hokuf's Hall. Before it was completed, lightning struck it and the partly demolished structure was sold. In 1878 Rev. F. Smutný, one of the three pioneer priests, came and stayed but a few months, being in ill health. In 1882 Rev. Philip Malý came and built the present church. He was born in Pačlavice near Kroměříž, Moravia, in 1840, ordained in 1869 and came to the United States some time in the early eighties, serving in various places as missionary. He died on a hill known in Moravia as Holý Hostýn, where pilgrimages are held, May 21, 1912. He served in Wilber a year or two and there is no record of his immediate successor, for Rev. Matěj Bor, whose name is entered next, came in 1888. Probably various priests from the vicinity assisted. Rev. Matěj Bor was born December 21, 1863, in Chrastavice, studied in Domažlice and České Budějovice in Bohemia, and St. Francis near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was ordained March 18, 1888, by Archbishop Hess. In that year he came to Wilber. Rev. Bor, at the time this history was written, was the oldest Czech priest in Ne-

braska, in years and also in time of service here and was retired, living in Weston. He was killed in an automobile accident November 20, 1927. In 1892 he was succeeded in Wilber by Rev. Alois J. Klein, who in 1894 was followed by Rev. Francis Žalud, who served until 1897. Between 1897 and 1899 Rev. Bartík from Milligan assisted. Rev. Václav Pokorný served from 1899 to 1902 and was followed, to 1908, by Rev. Adolph Mosler from Crete. Rev. Hančík then came from Crete from 1908 to 1914; Rev. F. J. Kopecký, 1915; Rev. V. Supík, 1917—1920; Rev. Francis Černý from October, 1921, to March, 1922; then Rev. Michael Pazourek and Rev. J. S. Hotový in 1925. The records do not seem to be entirely clear in this parish.

WILSON, COLFAX COUNTY—BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF PERPETUAL HELP:

A country church, at present a mission attached to Schuyler. The church was built in 1882 on land donated by Joseph Mrázek. Priests from Heun came until the church in Schuyler was built, since which time they serve from there. A new church was consecrated on August 27, 1918.

In looking over what records there are at hand of pioneer and now extinct parishes, we find that in Brown County, in Midvale and vicinity, in the early eighties lived about twenty Czech families, the first coming there in 1884. In that year they built a sod schoolhouse. On February 26, 1890, Rev. Charles Kolín of Atkinson celebrated mass there and baptized. No church was built. Our people left the country almost entirely, driven out by drouth.

In the late eighties a church was built in Flowell, Dodge or Colfax counties.

In 1890 about 150 families were living in the vicinity of Liberty, Fillmore County, and met for worship in the church there.

In the early days Rev. Šulák and Rev. Blaschke preached to Czechs in a mixed parish in Memominee, Cedar County.

Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction

Monsignore Alois J. Klein is now the oldest Czech priest in Nebraska, and has resided in one parish longer than any other. When the number of congregations and lodges he has organized and the buildings he has helped erect is considered, he has been more active than any of his colleagues. His long years of loyal and manifold service, his linguistic and literary accomplishments and his kindly attitude toward those who differ with him, have won for him esteem.

Monsignore Klein was born in the village of Frantoly, near Prachatice, Bohemia, on February 6, 1866, and acquired a public school education in both places. He then attended

the gymnasia in Budějovice for eight years, being first in his class and graduating with honors. In 1886 he enrolled in the clerical seminary there and devoted one year to a special study of theology and the Hebraic and Arabic languages. Immediately thereafter he matriculated in the Prague University (Department of Theology), occupying

Monsignore Alois J. Klein

his spare moments with the study of French and English. While studying in Prague, he determined to devote his life to missionary work in America, and in 1888 set out for Klagenfurt, (Celovec) Carinthia, where he completed his studies and was ordained June 15, 1889. He arrived in Nebraska October 31, 1889, and was appointed rector of St.

Wenceslaus Church in Wahoo, where he was instrumental in building a fine church. On December 10, 1891, he was transferred to Crete, where he restored confidence and extricated the congregation from embarassing financial and other difficulties, caused by the dissension between the former rector and the bishop. On September 5, 1893, he arrived in Brainard, as first resident priest, and established a rectory. Weston formed a part of his precinct until 1901 and he was instrumental in enlarging the church building there (1891), adding five lots to the church site, increasing the membership from 32 to 140 families, completing the organization of the congregation and founding three sodalities. In 1895 he visited his native land and upon his return organized branches of the Catholic Workman in Brainard, Weston, Dwight, Touhy and Loma. He held services in a public school building in Dwight until the church was built, and while in Bruno, built a rectory in 1901. In Dwight he furnished and improved the church structure, founded a number of societies, added one acre of land to the cemetery, enlarged the church site, purchased a rectory and erected a large hall. In 1909 he founded a mission in Bee, where he saw a church built in 1910. In Loma a congregation sprang from the branch of the Catholic Workman and a church was built in 1911. In his own parish, Brainard, the church, when he took charge, was a mere unplastered shell and the congregation numbered 28 members. He first organized several societies and a hall was built for their use in 1902. He then built a stately church, which is one of the notable church buildings in Nebraska, also a school and rectory, as described in the history of his parish.

As to his literary work, he has written under various pseudonyms: Ladislav Jurgevič, Ivan Vodický, N. J. Elk, Michal Ivanov, Alois Zlatopotocký and others. Probably his first work in this country appeared in the monthly Květy Americké, as shown in the chapter on publications. He has translated Washington Irving's "Alhambra", Charles Lambs's "Five Tales From Shakespeare" and some of Thomas Moore's poems from English, and Dr. Karl May's novel "In the Pacific Ocean" from German, the latter

having been published in 1901 by the publishers of Hlas in St. Louis, Mo. He was contributor to the Otto Encyclopedia, a monumental Bohemian educational work of 28 volumes, and a collection of his poems (in Bohemian) under the title "From The Domain Of The Prairie" is prepared for publication. He has contributed articles on bee-keeping to the Rural Beekeeper, Beekeeper's Review, The American Bee Journal and Annual Reports of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture for 1911 and 1913. Since 1911 he has served three terms as president of the Nebraska State Beekeepers' Association.

In recognition of his services to his church, in 1898, he was selected as member of the Board of Diocesean Consultors and Synodal Examiner of the Junior Clergy. In 1909, the twentieth anniversary of his ordination, Bishop Bonacum made him Vicar General. In 1911, upon the death of Bishop Bonacum he was appointed administrator of the Lincoln diocese by the Dubuque Metropolitan. For five months he directed the affairs of the church. When Bishop Tihen (successor to Bishop Bonacum) left to assume charge of the See of Denver, in 1917, the Apostolic Delegate in Washington again named Msgre. Klein administrator until Bishop O'Reilly was invested with the office. The new Bishop also named him Vicar-General, as had Bishop Tihen, placed him on the Bishop's Council, the Diocesean Building Committee and named him Parish Priest Consultor. On August 26, 1913, Pope Pius X made him domestic prelate with the title of Monsignore, the first Czech priest in Nebraska to hold that title. The investure was solemnized November 19, 1913, and June 16, 1914, Monsignore Klein celebrated the silver jubilee of his sacerdotal life. He holds also a title from his native land, for he is Honorary Canon of St. Maurice's Collegiate Chapter at Kroměříž in Moravia. This title he received from Dr. Ant. C. Stojan, the Archbishop of Olomouc, Moravia.

Monsignore John Vránek was born April 11, 1863, in Lžín near Soběslav, studied in Jindřichův Hradec and was ordained in Chur, Switzerland, July 14, 1889. He came to Nebraska in April, 1890, and his first charge was that of

assistant to Rev. Thomas Walsh in Norfolk, from where he took care of twelve missions, preaching in Bohemian in Verdigre, Pierce, Ravenna and Schoolcraft (near Madison). On October 23, 1890, he was made resident priest in Creighton, where he furnished the church and built a rectory. In Verdigre he remodelled the church in 1891 and organized a congregation in Pierce and Bloomfield, where he built the first church. In 1892 he began the organization of a congregation and the building of a church in Osmond, but on January 8, 1893, he was called to Omaha, to take charge of the St. Wenceslaus church, where he remained to the day of his death, November 14, 1925, almost thirty-three years. He was instrumental in the purchase of a building site for the church in South Omaha in 1893 and in that year built a brick church in Dodge costing $4,800.00 and one in Howell costing $3,000.00. In July, 1891, he was named Bishop's Consultor and Synodal Examiner and on January 4, 1925, was invested with the title of Monsignore. He wrote a large number of poems, many of which were published in the Almanac Katolík and Catholic newspapers. A collection of these, under the title "On American Soil", was published by the Bohemian Benedictine Press, Chicago, in 1905. Their theme is love of his native country and of the Catholic faith. Mr. Thos. Čapek in his book "Our America" considers him the most gifted of the Bohemian priests-poets in the United States. On June 23, 1914, he celebrated the silver jubilee of his priesthood, for which purpose the Czech Bishop Koudelka came from Wisconsin, to participate. He

Monsignore John Vránek

established a number of Catholic societies and from 1896 to 1905 was chaplain of the První Ústřední Jednota; in 1923 was elected protector and honorary Chaplain of the Catholic Sokols.

Rev. John Stephen Brož was born December 25, 1865, in Kardašova Řečice, County of Tábor, Bohemia. He studied four years in his birthplace, later in the gymnasia in Jindřichův Hradec, where he graduated. With his friend John Vránek he entered the University of Styria, in Gratz, for at that time it was almost impossible to gain entrance to a seminary in Bohemia, when the applicant had no influential friends. In the Styrian seminary Emanuel A. Bouška also was a student and the three became fast friends. Inasmuch as the German element prevailed, conditions became unpleasant and the three students asked leave to attend the university in Chur, Switzerland. Rev. John Hodyc, who also came to Nebraska, entered there too the following year. All four were ordained July 14, 1889, and all came to Nebraska, as did also another student from Chur, Rev. Joseph Koutek.

Rev. John St. Brož

Rev. Brož arrived in Chadron, Nebraska, May 1, 1890, to assist Rev. J. Brophy. The territory comprised Sioux, Dawes, Box Butte and Sheridan counties, with faculties in northern Wyoming. Rev. Brož was to look after the Czechs, Poles and Germans. The country was sparsely settled and there were no churches, for the drouth meant no crops and disappointed settlers. Northwest of Chadron was a good-sized Czech colony, but it became almost extinct after 1890. In Box Butte County were two large colonies, one west of Hemingford and one east, but both have become almost depopulated of Czechs. There was also a small German

mission on the Niobrara River in Box Butte County, numbering twelve families but having no church. In Sheridan County he served in a public school house, fifteen miles north of Rushville. Twelve miles south were Czech and Polish families, these he served also in a schoolhouse. East of the Niobrara Valley was a Dutch and German colony, the people living in dugouts. He had to conduct services out in the open, on account of the flies and mosquitos, an old rocking chair serving for a pulpit. In northern Sioux County, near the South Dakota boundary, lived a number of Germans who had come from Wisconsin. There they had taken their church apart, brought the material to Nebraska and rebuilt it again. This settlement was named Montrose. Rev. Brož served mass several times in Fort Robinson and met with Indians while at Gordon. His work was entirely of a missionary kind, as it was impossible to effect any organization under the circumstances.

At the close of 1890 Rev. Brož was made rector in St. Paul, Howard County, a Czech-Polish-German-Irish parish, from where he took care of Warsaw, six miles west, the Czech parish Geranium (Netolice) and the Polish parish Boleszczyn in Howard County. Once a month he went to Ravenna, then a mixed parish. In 1894 he was made rector in Dodge, from where he took care of Howell and where he built the first Catholic school in the state in which Czech is taught as a part of the course. On June 24, 1914, he celebrated the silver jubilee of his priesthood, Bishop Koudelka of Wisconsin participating. From Dodge he was transferred to Schuyler, then to South Omaha, where he died Sep. 2, 1919. His latter years were years of physical suffering, tuberculosis of the bone in his leg necessitating nine operations.

His poetic and literary ability was a higher-than average order, his themes being not entirely ecclesiastical.

His published works are as follows:—1909, by the Bohemian Benedictine Press, Chicago, History of the Bohemian Catholic parish of St. Václav in Dodge County; 1913, by Hlas, St. Louis, Mo., From The Prairie (poems); 1915, the same publisher: Bohemian John (poems); no date, the same

publisher: The Antiquity of Man in America. He had prepared for publication (work was in 1act begun with the printing) a larger work, which he called "Nebraska In The Past", but this has not as yet seen the light of day. Besides this, he was an authority on skeletal remains of the aborigines and geology in Nebraska, and a member of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Rev. John Hodyc, an unusually gifted poet, though no volume of his work has been published, was born in Lochenice near Králové Hradec, January 17, 1863, and ordained in Chur, Switzerland, July 14, 1889. He came to Nebraska in that year, first being assistant to Rev. Čoka in Omaha, from where he took care of Heun, Dodge, Tábor and Ravenna. In 1890 he was made incumbent in Dodge and in 1894 transferred to Grand Island, from where he took care of Ravenna. He was then transferred to South Omaha, where he built the church (costing $3,000). From South Omaha he went to Milwaukee, to Chicago and then to Boerne, Texas, where he died in August, 1906, of tuberculosis. His poems "Ambrose's Daughter", "The Peasant's Home" and "Exiles" appeared in the leading literary magazine of Bohemia, Zlatá Praha, others, in United States publications, were printed in the Catholic papers Národ and Hlas and almanac Katolík.

Rev. John Hodyc

Rev. Václav Kočárník wrote articles and translated stories published in the almanac Katolík and in 1911 therein published his "Reminiscences of Nebraska".

Rev. Francis Žalud wrote articles for the Hlas and Česká Žena, published in St. Louis.

John Klein, not a churchman, brother of Monsignore Klein, now living in Cheyenne County, Nebraska, wrote poems. "A Dream At Sea" and "Etelka" were published

in the first Květy Americké. He was born in 1860, in Frantoly, Bohemia, and came to this country in 1881.

PRIESTS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED TITLES:

In Nebraska:

Administrator of diocese sede vacanti: Vilém Čoka and Alois J. Klein.

Monsignore: Alois J. Klein and John Vránek.

Vicar-General: Vilém Čoka, Alois J. Klein and Joseph Macourek.

Bishop's Consultor: Vilém Čoka, Alois J. Klein, John Vránek, Matěj Bor and Joseph Macourek.

Parish Priest Consultor: Alois J. Klein.

Synodal Examiner: Alois J. Klein, John Vránek and Joseph Macourek.

Prosynodal Examiner: J. Chundelák, John St. Brož and Francis Žalud.

Dean: Charles Z. Petlach.

In Europe:

Canon and Consistory Consultor of the Diocese of Olomouc, Moravia, Czechoslovakia: Alois J. Klein.

Protestants

Czech Protestants in Nebraska are organized as Presbyterians, and take pride in being, nationally, descendants as to faith of the Bohemian Brethren, the first Protestants in Bohemia, and probably, as an organization, the first anywhere. The Bohemian Brethren began to organize, as to congeniality of principle, soon after the burning of Hus and by 1457 numbered many thousands. In the years 1494—1503 there were about 100,000 of these Brethren in Bohemia alone, with many in Moravia. With the fall of the kingdom (1620) they were exiled or left their country in great numbers, some coming to the United States, where they have been called "Moravian Brethren."

The first group of Czech Protestants to meet for worship in Nebraska were the families of six Colfax County pioneers: John Novotný, Joseph Šmatlán, Anton Kunhart, Frank Zrůst, Joseph Daněk and Joseph Vítek. They had come in 1869 and 1870 from Cedar Rapids, Ia., where they had been members of Rev. F. Kún's congregation. Rev. Kún was the first minister of this faith in the middle west. In 1875 their numbers were augmented and they congregated in school-

Rev. Jar. Dobiáš

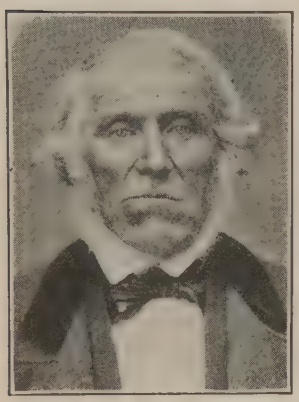
Rev. B. A. Filipi

Rev. V. Losa

Rev. John Pípal

Rev. Bed. Paroulek

houses, having met before that in homes, under the leadership of John Novotný. Rev. Kún used to come twice a year to preach. In 1889 they built a church eighteen miles north of Schuyler (six miles from Clarkson) and called it Sion (Zion). It was dedicated by Rev. Kún (he also had dedicated the cemetery for which Joseph Šmatlán gave two acres of land) and the first gathering held there was for the funeral of John Novotný, aged eighty-three, who had lived to see his wish (a church) fulfilled. Rev. V. Losa, born in Nosislava, Moravia, in 1867, studied in Brno, Moravia, Cologne, Germany, and the Union Theological Seminary in New York (where he was ordained May 17, 1891) was the first minister. About that time another church was built in the town of Clarkson, called New Zion, also dedicated by Rev. Kún. Rev. Losa had charge of both churches. In 1900 he was succeeded by Rev. Anton Svoboda, who came from Cobb, Wisconsin. He also took care of both congregations, besides attending to the needs of a colony in Maple Creek Precinct (although there was no church there). In 1913 Rev. Svoboda left and the two congregations divided.

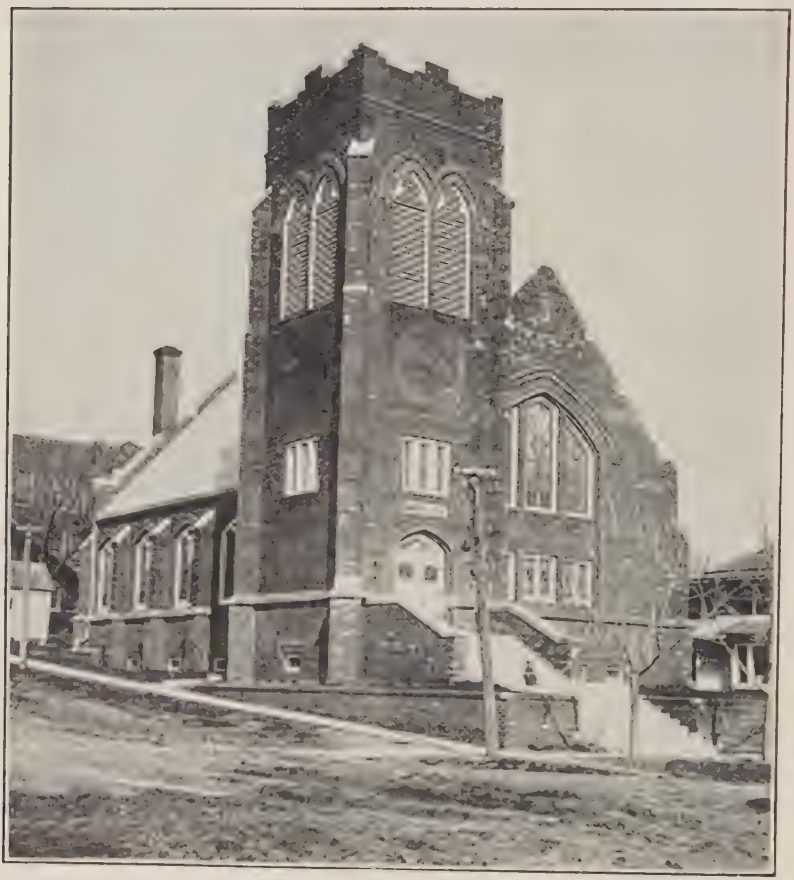


John Novotný Sr.

New Sion, Clarkson: After the division Rev. B. A. Filipi, the present incumbent, became pastor. He was born July 4, 1880, in Malčín, Bohemia, and came to this country in 1899, studying in the Union Theological Seminary, New York, and the Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburg, Pa., where he was ordained in 1902. He was active in Pittsburg to 1904, in Uniontown, Pa., to 1906, in Omaha to 1913, then in Clarkson. In 1922 he was instrumental in building a fine church in Clarkson, an ornament to the town.

Sion, Clarkson, was for a time without a minister, until 1916, when Rev. Bedřich (Frederick) Paroulek became incumbent. He was born in Libice near Poděbrady, in 1875,

and came to this country in 1906. He attended the Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburg, Pa., in the meantime being active in Cannonsburg and Leetsdale, Pa. He was ordained in Pittsburg in 1909 and in 1912 came to Cuba,



New Zion Presbyterian Church in Clarkson

Kansas, where he remained to 1915. In 1916 he came to Sion, Clarkson, and in 1919 became incumbent in Wahoo, where he is at present. In 1919 he was succeeded in Sion by Rev. Joseph Havlík, present incumbent. Rev. Havlík was born December 10, 1893, in Damašk, Bohemia, came to this country in 1907, studied in Dubuque, Iowa, where he was

graduated in 1917. He was active in Saratoga, Iowa, until 1920, when he came to Sion. He has been instrumental in organizing the Bethlehem Chapel in Maple Creek Precinct, and at intervals holds services in Howell.

The next oldest congregation is that of Wahoo and Weston, Saunders County, also originally one, but divided at the time plans were being made for building a church.

Wahoo and Weston: In May, 1875, the following pioneers met for worship: Joseph Peštál, Thomas Trutna, Jos. Trutna, Frank Pokorný, Joseph Caha (born in Keršdorf near Měřín, Bohemia), Joseph Pallas (born in Tasov) Jos. Caha (born in Roznatín, Moravia). Their numbers were augmented by: Joseph Čejka (Čáslav), Joseph Kliment (Jilemnice), Joseph Pokorný, Matěj Jáša (Horní Vilímovice), Václav Jáša (Pocoucov), Václav Pallas, Václav Svoboda (Cihelín), John Pokorný (Střižov), Václav Pokorný (Pocoucov), Joseph Veškrna (Budíkovice), Joseph Sklenář (Vaneč) and Charles Smolík (Okříšek). At first they attended the Presbyterian church in Wahoo, but were unable to understand English and the minister obtained an interpreter from Omaha. Others met in private homes for service. In 1879 forty acres were bought for a cemetery, which was dedicated by Rev. Kún, who used to come twice a year to preach. The congregation at that time numbered, besides those listed already: Frank Hledík, A. Trutna, John Houfek, F. Krafka, Václav Svoboda, Joseph Svoboda, Václav Brich, John Čejka, John Trutna, Joseph Pallas, F. Beneš, Joseph Valtr. Joseph Novák, Frank Kolář and Joseph Krafka. In 1887 the disruption occurred. A part of the congregation bought a schoolhouse in Weston and remodelled it for a church, the others built a church four miles from Weston, called the Wahoo church, as the former is called the Weston church.

Wahoo. The Wahoo church was dedicated by Rev. Kún on November 11, 1888. Between 1890 and 1894 Rev. F. Reitinger and Rev. A. Paulu were ministers, succeeded in 1896 by Rev. John Pípal. Rev. Pípal was born in Opatov and ordained in Omaha in 1892. In 1905 he left Wahoo, going to his native land, where he is pastor in Libenice near

Kolín. He was succeeded by Rev. Frank Novák, who in 1910 went to Baltimore, Md., where he is engaged in his calling. His successor was Rev. Jaroslav Kučera, who came from Eagle (P. O. Academy) South Dakota, and served from 1911 to 1919, when he moved to Silver Lake, Minn., and from there in 1921 returned to his native land, being at present pastor in Hustopeč, Moravia. His successor was Rev. Paroulek, present incumbent, whose biography is given elsewhere.

Weston. Those who formed the first congregation were: Václav Brich, Joseph Čejka, Joseph Caha, F. Krafka, Jos. Kliment, John Jáša, Joseph Sklenář, Joseph Veškrna, Fr. Beneš, Joseph Svoboda and Václav Svoboda. From 1891 to 1893 Rev. A. Paulu used to come from Omaha every fourth Sunday. He was followed by Rev. John Pípal, who served in the same manner. In 1895 Rev. Al. Bárta was made incumbent, but he left within a year. It was not until 1900, during Rev. Pípal's time, that Sunday School was taught. After Rev. Pípal's departure followed several years of inactivity and it was in 1912, when the Methodist church building was bought, that activity was renewed. At present Weston is again annexed to Wahoo.

Omaha: In the summer of 1887 the first services were held in the home of John Blažek Sr., the minister of the English-language Presbyterian church leading in prayer. John Jirák read from the Scriptures in Czech and Rev. H. A. Schauffler of Cleveland, Ohio, preached in Czech. Miss Barbara Jirák (long since deceased) played the organ. This gathering took the name of "Bethlehem Chapel." During the summer vacation Rev. Frank Rundus, minister of the church situated between Munden and Cuba, Kansas, conducted services. In the following two years the congregation grew and the Bohemian Brethren Congregation was established. Among the pioneers were the families of Jos. Vladyka, F. Koza, S. A. Beránek, John Jirák, John Blažek Sr., and others. Later the congregation joined the Presbyterian denomination. Rev. V. Písek from New York City conducted services as a visiting minister, then for three months V. Vladyka was minister pro tem.

In 1890 the first pastor, Rev. A. Paulu, was chosen. He was succeeded in 1891 by Rev. John Pípal, who left in 1896, and for three years following visiting ministers had charge. In 1899 Rev. Jaroslav Dobiáš was chosen, a very able pastor, during whose incumbency a corner lot was bought on 15th

Bohemian Brethren Church and minister's residence, in Omaha

and Hickory and the church building (then standing on 15th, north of William street) was moved thereon. Later another building was bought and moved, to be used as a parsonage. Rev. Dobiáš was instrumental also in founding the congregation in South Omaha. He left Omaha

in 1906, to become editor of a Bohemian paper (Československý Svět) in New York City. His successor was Rev. B. A. Filipi, who was succeeded in 1913 by Rev. V. Cejnar, born December 14, 1862, in Svinary near Králové Hradec. He studied in Neukirchen, Germany, and Glasgow, Scotland. For three years and a half he was minister in Bohemia, a year and a half in Gratz, Styria, and ten years in Vienna, Austria. He came to this country in 1905, being a year in Pittsburg, Pa., a year in Chicago, Ill., five years in Georgetown, Tex., a year and a half in Scotland, So. Dak., and after eleven years' service in Omaha, in 1925 he was appointed travelling preacher and colporteur by the Nebraska Synod. He was succeeded in October, 1925, by Rev. Louis Květenský, the present incumbent.

South Omaha: In 1893 S. A. Beránek and wife established a Sunday and sewing school, coming from Omaha to participate. During Rev. Dobiáš's time the congregation was founded and the church built on Twenty-first street between Q and R. After his departure in 1906 V. Miniberger, then studying theology in Omaha, took care of the congregation. In 1909 he moved to Racine, Wis., and his successors were: Rev. B. A. Filipi and Miloslav Filipi (then studying theology in Omaha). In 1912 Rev. Emanuel Kalina, newly ordained and coming from New York, became incumbent. He was earnestly active and improved the church building, but in 1918 he entered the services of the Young Men's Christian Association. Rev. V. Cejnar of Omaha then took care of the congregation until Rev. Charles Joseph Koukol, the present incumbent, took charge. Rev. Koukol was born in Kostelec nad Orlicí, Bohemia, in 1883 and came to this country in 1895, without his parents. He lived a year in Jessup, Pa., where his eldest brother was pastor of the first Slovak Presbyterian church in the U. S. Then he lived for several years in Moorestown, N. J. He studied as follows: 1909: Oberlin Academy; 1909: Oberlin Seminary, Slavic Department; 1912: Carroll College, Wisconsin, where he attained the degree of Bachelor of Arts; 1913: Chicago Theological Seminary, Bachelor of Theology; 1913—1914: Philosophical Faculty in Prague, Bohemia. In 1915 he was

ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church and until 1921 was minister of the Bohemian Presbyterian church in Phillips, Wis., where was organized also a Bohemian Presbyterian Church of Jan Hus. In 1921 he came to South Omaha, the incorporated title of his church being: Presbyterian Church of the Bohemian and Moravian Brethren.

Prague: During Rev. Pipal's incumbency in Wahoo, he looked after Prague. Following his departure, Rev. B. A.

Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in South Omaha

Filipi used to come from Omaha at intervals, but in 1911 Prague was annexed to Wahoo.

Table Rock: Originally the congregation met in Humboldt, in Richardson County. Rev. Frank Rundus used to come occasionally from Cuba, Kans., and in 1893 Rev. John Rundus used to come from Crete, Nebr. Later the congregation shifted to Table Rock. There is no regular minister.

Thurston: In 1900 a number of Czechs came from other points, mostly from the vicinity of Wahoo, Saunders County, and rented farms from the Indians. They first met in a schoolhouse three miles east of Thurston and were attended by Rev. V. Miniberger, Rev. B. A. Filipi and Miloslav Filipi, then a student of theology—all from Omaha. In 1909 the congregation was formally organized. In 1912 a student of theology, Jaroslav Štulc, spent his summer vacation there, but the first resident minister was Rev. Joseph Leksa, who had been ordained in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1917. Before his coming a fine brick church had been built and during his time a parsonage bought. He left in 1922, moving to Blue Rapids, Kans., and at present there is no incumbent.

Organizations

In union there is strength. Humankind has discovered this fact long ago and since the days when guilds of medieval times came into being, societies, clubs and lodges have multiplied and prospered. This proves that organization meets a real social and economic need and Czechs are no exception to the rule. Indeed, organizations are more numerous among them than probably most nationalities. They are of two classes generally: Benevolent or confraternal, and non-benefit. To the latter belong the gymnastic (Sokol), dramatic, singing and social societies.

The benevolent or rather fraternal insurance orders do not pay high sick benefits or insurance, but they are directed by people who draw moderate salaries (compared to large English-language orders) and have been a great boon to many who could not otherwise afford life insurance. They serve a twofold purpose—material help in time of need and a means for social gatherings, so dear to Czechs. Indeed, the social part of it is very important to people from a foreign country, for they naturally have a sentiment for their native land and like to meet with others of their kind. The gymnastic, dramatic and singing societies supply needs of a social character and no community of any size is without at least one.

Even in pioneer days this need was evident. In truth, for immigrants in a strange land, with little or no proficiency in the English language, with no social opportunities, it was all the more pressing. So we find that within a very few years after the first settler came to any locality, a club was organized. Thus in Crete, Saline County, Joseph Jindra was instrumental in founding a reading society in 1867, two years after the first Czech set foot in that vicinity. It was the first Bohemian society or Club in the state and was changed later to a Sokol club and still later to a lodge

of the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society, of which mention is made elsewhere. In Omaha, Frank Mareš (brother-in-law of V. L. Vodička) called a meeting in 1872, for the purpose of forming a society to foster the Czech language and social life. On January 26, 1873, officers of the organization, called The Reading And Benevolent Society, were chosen. Frank Mareš was president, Matěj Nerad secretary and Václav Kučera treasurer. This club disbanded in 1875 and the money remaining in the treasury was divided as follows: $50.00 was given to the reading circle of the dramatic society Klicpera, for the purchase of books; $20.00 was sent to Professor Ladimír Klácel, a former

First Czech community hall in Nebraska, on John B. Svoboda's farm near Crete.

monk and philosopher, who was unable to adapt himself to earning a living in this country and subsisted mostly by support of his countrymen; and $22.00 went to Czechs in Nebraska who were victims of the grasshopper plague. For these latter also a benefit ball was given.

The dramatic club Klicpera (the name of a Czech playwright) in Omaha was founded by F. B. Zdrůbek August 23, 1874. On July 22, 1877, Lodge Palacký No. 19, Bohemian

Slavonian Benevolent Society, was founded. Later it became affiliated with the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. In Schuyler, Colfax County, Joseph W. Zerzan founded a reading society in 1875, which became, later, a lodge of the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society (Lodge Západní Jednota). In 1874 the rural settlement Tábor in Colfax County also had a reading society.

The clubs just described are the first of which we have record and it is significant that they were formed at a time when life was a struggle for existence in a bare, unsettled country. They are a strong proof that our pioneers hungered for intellectual food, while being denied, in many cases, sufficient food for the body.

Czechs brought to this land their love for music, drama, dancing and singing, so much more common on the European Continent than here, where Puritanism has left traces. This quality of their temperament explains the somewhat frequent mention of saloons and dance halls in pioneer times. An overwhelming proportion of the first comers were tillers of the soil. There was a scattering of artisans but almost none as yet had engaged in business. When the settlers came to town, what was more natural than their desire to meet those with whom they could talk, where they could partake of the beverage they had known in the homeland? Their liking for harmless entertainment resulted in the building of dance or what were really community halls. This phase of their lives was criticised by their native-American neighbors, but when we compare it with whiskey drinking, gambling, horse stealing and similar aspects of pioneer days, it appears mighty innocent.

Our people formed dramatic clubs for the purpose of producing amateur theatricals. In Saline County the first performance of a dramatic kind was given in 1869, as described in the history of the settlement of that county. In Omaha the first dramatic performance was given in 1869, in Štěpánek's Hall, on Thirteenth and William street (then a wagon road). Or rather it was the first public gathering of Czechs, the commemoration of the burning of Hus. The

following appeared on the programme: Matěj Nerad, Frank Mareš, Eleonora Vodička, Flora Pintner and Anna Kareš. A one-act play "Rozpustilí kluci ve škole" (Bad Boys In School) was given, with the following taking part: Matěj Nerad, Frank Mareš, John Stibal, Frank Vodička, Flora Pintner (later Mrs. Krejčí of Cleveland, Ohio), and Eleonora Vodička (later Mrs. Frank Mareš of Crete). That was on July 6, while later, in October of that year, the play "Divotvorný Klobouk" (The Magic Hat) was given, with the following players: F. Sprostý and wife, Mrs. and Mr. Malý, Miss Eleonora Vodička, Frank Mareš and others. Later "První den po svatbě" (The Day After the Wedding) was given, then came an interim until 1874, when F. J. Sadílek, now of Wilber arrived and put new life into drama. From that time dramatic performances have been given steadily, now for many years a regular season of six or eight plays being produced. It is probably the oldest amateur theatrical organization in the state.

In Colfax County probably the first performance of this kind was given in the country church settlement Tábor, near Howell, in 1874, by the Bohemian Reading Society. The play was "Hluchoněmý Frantík" (Deaf And Dumb Frank), with the following participating: Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Jonáš, George Jonáš (now living in Stuart, Holt County), Miss Mary Šindelář (now Mrs. John Poledna) and J. B. Šindelář (now living in Howell), who had the title role. The affair took place in the sodhouse home on the farm of F. J. Jonáš, the curtain being two sheets sewn together. A dance followed, for which the only band in the country played, that of Václav Svoboda (who now lives in Omaha). That same year and in the same place was given a playlet "Frantík, pražský student" (Frank, a Prague Student), with J. B. Šindelář again in the title role, and the rest of the actors as in the preceding play.

As to music, the Czech adage says: A Czech, a musician. There is a good band in even the smallest community. The Frank Neděla band of Crete in the early seventies was not only the first Czech band in Nebraska, but for a time the

only one west of Omaha. We have in mind a professional band, that played for pay, whenever hired to do so. No doubt there were even then many musical groups, wherever three or four musicians met together. Detailed mention of Neděla's band is made in the history of Saline County.

The Těl. Jed. Sokol of Omaha for a number of years in the eighteen-nineties annually conducted an excursion to one of the larger Czech settlements. A train was chartered from Omaha, on Sunday, and was often joined by others along its branch lines. Arriving at their destination, the participants found a large crowd gathered from all the surrounding countryside, and merry time was had by all.

Singing societies were found in the larger settlements, and thus with the aid of speeches, songs, music and plays, many celebrations were held, aside from dancing parties. Catholic societies celebrated and still celebrate occasions connected with their church and give plays and dances. Non-Catholics for many years never failed to commemorate the burning of John Hus (July 6, 1415) and the loss of the Bohemian kingdom to the Hapsburgs (at the battle of White Mountain, November 8, 1620). These latter have practically ceased. To the younger generation they mean little or nothing and besides, since Bohemia has become free, the latter has lost its poignancy.

With the exception of the gymnastic (Sokol) societies, the class just described belong to no orders or unions (which keep regular records) and it is impossible to give detailed data. Of the lodges belonging to the large fraternal organizations, we do have such information and are able to give it.

Bohemian Farmers' Mutual Aid Society In Nebraska:

Inasmuch as Nebraska stands first as a habitat of Czech farmers, it is proper that we place this society first, all the more because it was the first and only one of its kind here. It was founded in March 1876 and functioned to 1893, seventeen years. Its object was to furnish insurance against damage to wheat, rye, barley, oats and, later, flax, corn and potatoes. As an instance, in 1889 damage by hail

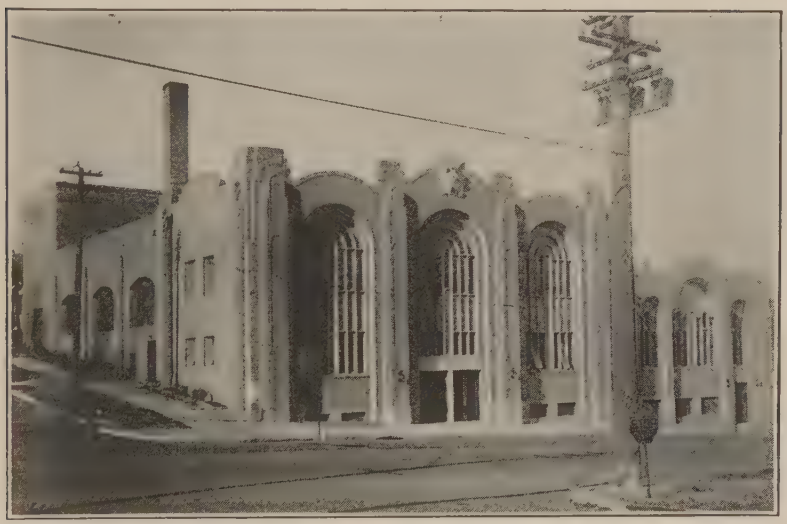
amounted to $2553.66 and insurance was paid at the rate of $68.68 for every $100.00. It numbered fifty unions or societies, with one thousand members, and was founded by Joseph Hanzl, a pioneer miller of Glencoe, Dodge County (a postoffice no longer in existence). Hanzl was aided by John Rosický, for the former was not proficient in English. Hanzl was manager for eight years and was succeeded by John F. Sobota of Praha, Colfax County (also discontinued as a postoffice) a farmer and postmaster there. Four years later he was succeeded by Joseph V. Holeček (of whom more mention is made in the history of Knox County), and he was succeeded in 1891 (four years later) by Václav (Vencl) Křikač Sr., then living in Geranium, Valley County (now in Comstock, Custer County). In 1893 the society disbanded. From the beginning until 1890 the weekly Pokrok Západu was the official organ, following that the Nová Doba in Schuyler, Nebraska. This society was most beneficial to those pioneers, for they knew little or no English. Those who came after them are able to enter English-language insurance societies.

Another non-insurance organization was that of the educational clubs Komenský, of which mention is made in the chapter on schools.

Sokol Gymnastic Society:

In Czech: Tělocvičná Jednota Sokol. This order has been an important factor in Czech national life in this and the mother country and is the only order in this country that had its inception in Bohemia. It was established in Prague, Bohemia, in 1862, at a time when the nation was awakening from a lethargy produced by two hundred years of repression of the language and national feeling, by the Hapsburgs. As mentioned in the chapter on religion, the Czech language and patriotism had been kept alive mainly among the peasants. The city and town population was indifferent or favored the German. The reason for this probably is that peasants are economically more independent. In the cities, however, when the problem of a business calling or career was presented, the people had to submit

to those in power. With the birth of this Society or Order a new national program was born. Equality, harmony, fraternity! A healthy mind in a healthy body! These were its aims. The object was dual: Physical training for the body, national or patriotic training for the mind. The Order grew and prospered and has always played an important part in the affairs of its nation. Being comprised largely of the younger men, it stands for virility, energy and enthusiasm, as well as for democracy and patriotism. Lodges or clubs were formed in this country soon after the first immigrants settled here.



Sokol Auditorium in Omaha

The first society in Nebraska was founded by John K. Mallat (born in Humpolec, lived long in Wilber, Nebr., died in Glendale, California, May 31, 1926) in 1875, the Reading Society there being its nucleus, but later was changed to a lodge of the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society. The second was founded in Omaha, in the home of Frank Jelen, September 3, 1877, its founders being: Frank Jelen Sr., Joseph Vlna, John Konvalin, Frank Boukal, John Sokol, Joseph Kavan, John Svačina, Frank Vodička, Václav

Koš, John Holeček, Frank Vlna, Václav Kohout, Joseph Příborský, Leopold Krenk, Vojtěch Veleta, Peter Svačina, Anton Pokorný, Joseph Fiala, Frank Raitera. It is still in existence and is therefore the first of those now in being. At the present time there are in Nebraska the following societies, with 1,111 members of both sexes.

ABIE, Těl. Jed. Sokol Karel Jonáš; BRUNO, Těl. Jel. Sokol; Brush Creek Precinct (Saline County), Těl. Jed. Sokol; BURWELL, Těl. Jed. Sokol; CRETE, Těl. Jed. Sokol; DODGE, Těl. Jed. Sokol; OMAHA, Těl. Jed. Sokol; ORD, Těl. Jed. Sokol; PRAGUE, Těl. Jed. Sokol; SCHUYLER, Těl. Jed. Sokol; SOUTH OMAHA, Těl. Jed. Sokol Fuegner-Tyrš; RAVENNA, Sokol Ravennský; WILBER, Těl. Jed. Sokol.

The general office for the western district of the Těl. Jed. Sokol is in Omaha. At one time this district comprised the majority of the states west of the Mississippi, of late it takes in So. Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska only. The committee in charge of this office is active in forming new clubs and in fostering the advancement of the movement as a whole. Since the war many new clubs have been formed; a director of athletics is maintained continually (and he visits all the clubs to superintend the work); tournaments and exhibitions are given annually and the interest of the older people is sought with a view of encouraging physical and moral education of the young people. More has been done in this direction during the last four or five years than in the entire preceding period. This is largely due to the efforts of Simon Rokůsek, president and Joseph J. Mík, secretary of the Western District Committee.

Jos. J. Mík

Joseph J. Mík was born August 25, 1859 in Dolejší Lukavice, County Přeštice. He came to St. Louis, Mo., in

1873 and in 1884 to Omaha. In 1891 he married Miss Anna Drozda (born in Malechov), their only child being Marie Míková, the famous pianiste. In 1889 Mr. Mík entered the services of the Burlington & Missouri Railroad Company and for years has been station master of the depot in Omaha. He thus meets so many people that he has been called the "best known Czech in America". He has always been active in Sokol life, as well as in other Czech patriotic and cultural movements.

Simon Rokůsek was born in 1874 in Chelčice and came to Omaha in 1894. In 1897 he married Miss Marie Klabeneš (born in Malochín). Since 1897 in business as baker. Mr. Rokůsek has always been active in patriotic and social life of Omaha Czechs, as officer of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association and Těl. Jed. Sokol.

Simon Rokůsek

In 1889 the first Sokol organization for women (Sokolky) was founded in Omaha, Nebraska, in the home of Mrs. Mary Kříž. At the present time there are in Nebraska the following clubs, with 330 members:

CRETE, Libuše; OMAHA, Omaha and Tyrš; SOUTH OMAHA, Libuše; SCHUYLER, Vlastenky.

Our Catholic people have their Catholic Sokol societies also, as shown in the list of Catholic organizations.

The members of these Sokol clubs meet regularly for practice, give public exhibitions and compete in tournaments. With the German Turners they have been the pioneers in gymnastic sports, today so popular with American youth. However, they do not confine themselves to athletics alone, but are ever in the foreground and ready to assist with all patriotic and cultural projects.

Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society:

In 1922 the name was changed to Czecho-Slovak Protective Society, C. S. P. S. in Czech: Česko-Slovenský Podporující Spolek. The oldest existing fraternal Czech organization in the United States, established in March 1854 in St. Louis, Mo. The first society of this Order to be founded in Nebraska was Lodge Palacký No. 19, July 22, 1877 (named for the famous Czech historian). The founders were: John Rosický, F. J. Sadílek, Václav Jablečník, Frank Vodička, John Glickhauf, John Hora, V. L. Vodička, Anton Pokorný, J. Čajkovský and Anton J. Hanyš. This Order flourished for many years in Nebraska as well as all over the United States, but in February 1897, when the Western Bohemian Fraternal Ass'n was established in Omaha, the majority of the western lodges affiliated with it. At the present time there are in our state the following lodges of the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society with 400 members:

Wahoo Pionýr No. 25, WAHOO; Svojan No. 29, WILBER; Jaroslav No. 38, WEST POINT; Tábor No. 40, HUMBOLDT; Západní Jednota No. 42, SCHUYLER; Dennice No. 81, SEDLOV (P. O. GERANIUM); Jednota Pokroku No. 97, LINCOLN; Bořivoj No. 138, DODGE; Omaha No. 144, OMAHA; Hvězda Svobody No. 145, SOUTH OMAHA; Vladislav I. No. 149, PRAGUE.

In two instances, Hvězda Svobody in South Omaha and Vladislav I. in Prague, the lodges remained with the old order and entered the new also.

Western Bohemian Fraternal Association:

In Czech: Západní Česko Bratrská Jednota. This order was founded in Omaha, at a convention called for that purpose and held February 9 to 11, 1897. Fifteen Nebraska lodges belonging to the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society participated, seven from Minnesota, one from North Dakota, six from Iowa and two from Wisconsin, while five sent letters agreeing with the object of the convention.

The Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society had prospered until the beginning of the nineties, when the growth stopped and in some lodges the numbers of members began to diminish. This because the large English-language orders were springing up, with payments based on age and

other necessary improvements. All Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society members paid the same dues, regardless of age, and the Order did not admit women to full membership. They came in as associate members, as wives of their husbands, and their insurance was limited to $250.00, with no sick benefits. At this convention the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association was founded upon a basis similar, in a general way, to the large English-language fraternal orders. The old Order (C. S. P. S.) operates principally in the east, although in its next convention (following that of the W. B. F. A. in 1897), it instituted the same improvements, while prior to that the eastern delegates in conventions denied these improvements at the request of the western delegates. The Western Bohemian Fraternal Ass'n is at present the largest Czech fraternal union in Nebraska, largely because it admits women on equal terms with men and is entirely impartial in the matter of religion. The Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society, on the other hand, at first and for a long time was distinctly anticlerical and has not entirely renounced that position. The Western Bohemian Fraternal Association was the first Czech order to admit women on equal terms with men, and of late it is establishing lodges for the young generation, where the business is conducted in English. In the list following several lodges with English names can be noted. Thus the way is paved for the future, when English will predominate. At present there are in Nebraska the following lodges with 7,095 members, of whom about one third are women:

Boyd County: Lipany No. 56, Lynch; Karlín No. 40, Spencer.

Buffalo County: Žižkův Palcát No. 25, Ravenna.

Butler County: Havlíček Borovský No. 66, Abie; Čecho-Moravan No. 68, Brainard; Brno No. 43, Bruno; Dobroslav No. 12, David City; Dwight No. 158, Dwight; Ratolest Mladočechů No. 31, Linwood.

Cass County: Tyrš No. 18, Plattsmouth.

Colfax County: Západní Svornost No. 28, Clarkson; Svoboda No. 60, Howell; Blaník No. 93, Schuyler.

Dodge County: Neruda No. 57, Beemer; J. A. Komenský, No. 59, Dodge; Golden Rod No. 265, Dodge; Fremont No. 156, Fremont.

Custer County: Čerchov No. 25, Comstock; Sargent No. 139, Sargent; Joseph Jungman No. 161, Sargent.

Douglas County—All in Omaha: Palacký No. 1; Hvězda Svobody No. 45; Jiří Poděbradský No. 72; Eliška Přemyslovna No. 77; Slovan No. 78; Eliška Krásnohorská No. 113; Dobromila No. 116; Mladý Rozkvět No. 195; Pathfinder No. 263; Zest No. 296; Pokrok Omahy No. 322; Pavla Čechová No. 312.

Fillmore County: Zbirov No. 138, Exeter; Fillmore No. 268, Exeter; Rábí No. 26, Milligan; Svatopluk Čech No. 76, Milligan; Čechie No. 122, Milligan.

Gage County: Králové Hradec No. 17, Odell; Šumavan No. 130, Virginia; Budějovice No. 61, Wymore.

Holt County: Atkinson No. 178, Atkinson.

Howard County: Elba No. 213, Elba; Čech No. 152, Farwell, Kutná Hora No. 167, St. Paul.

Knox County: Vyšehrad No. 53, Niobrara; Sladkovský No. 8, Pishelville; Bílá Hora No. 5, Verdigre; America No. 276, Verdigre.

Pawnee County: Osvěta No. 94, Burchard; Jan Kollár No. 101, Du Bois; Přemysl Otakar II No. 84, Table Rock.

Perkins County: Třebíč No. 274, Elsie.

Pierce County: Věda No. 197, Osmond; Český Prapor No. 199, Pierce.

Platte County: Jan Hus No. 50, Lindsay.

Saline County: Nebraska No. 3, Crete; Karolina Světlá No. 96, Crete; Tábor No. 74, Dorchester; Kolumbus No. 133, Friend; Vlastenec No. 120, Swanton; Křivoklát No. 79, Tobias; Ladimír Klácel No. 92, Western; Vlastenky Západu No. 117, Western; Praha No. 54, Wilber; Libuše No. 70, Wilber; Mír No. 132, Wilber.

Saunders County: Plzeň No. 9, Morse Bluff; Moravská Orlice No. 21, Morse Bluff; Vladislav I No. 29, Prague; Pražské Vlastenky No. 137, Prague; Lidumil No. 87, Weston.

Seward County: Bee No. 214, Bee.

Valley County: Slavín No. 112, Geranium; Dennice No. 14, Ord.

Webster County: Čáslav No. 212, Red Cloud.

Czech-Slavonian Workman Benevolent Association:

In Czech: Česko Slovanská Dělnická Podporující Jednota. The first lodge of this union was Čechie No. 11, South Omaha, established July 23, 1898. The following lodges existed in our state, with 402 members:

Čechie No. 11, South Omaha; Pokrok No. 21, Omaha; Pavla Čechova No. 22, South Omaha; Horymír No. 30, Plattsmouth; Clarkson No. 32, Clarkson; Hvězda Západu No. 33, Prague.

The above association was merged with the West. Boh. Frat. Association in 1929.

Union of Bohemian Women:

In Czech: Jednota Českých Dam. This order is affiliated, as to a liberal (in religion) programme with the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society, although not in any sense an auxiliary. The first lodge of this order in Nebraska was

established in Wilber, lodge Hvězda Západu, on September 28, 1885, and was initiated January 5, 1886. At present there are the following lodges in Nebraska with 1,455 members:

Hvězda Západu No. 28, Wilber; Vlastislava No. 29, Omaha; Vytrvalost No. 34, Schuyler; Olivová Ratolest No. 35, South Omaha; Dcery Vlasti No. 48, Linwood; Eliška Přemyslovna No. 58, Clarkson; Boleslava No. 60, Omaha; Květoslava No. 64, Crete; Hvězda Nové Doby No. 86, Omaha; Lilie Západu No. 89, Bruno; Vesna No. 90, Milligan; Růže Vítězství No. 92, Ravenna; Táboritky No. 96, Humboldt; Pavla Čechova No. 113, Wilber.

The Sisterhood Benevolent Union:

In Czech: Sesterská Podporující Jednota. There are three lodges of this order in the state, numbering 329 members and they are:

Mírnost No. 19, South Omaha (the first, est. November 21, 1896); Luna No. 22, Wilber; Vlastenky Západu No. 34, South Omaha.

Bohemian Roman Catholic Central Union in The United States:

In Czech: Česká Katolická První Ústřední Jednota. This is the oldest order of its kind in the country, having been established in St. Louis, Mo., in 1877. Like the oldest non-Catholic Czech fraternal order, it met with secession of the western lodges, largely for the same reasons.

In the early days of its existence it numbered several lodges in our state, but at the present time but a handful of members represent it. Three in Omaha, belonging to the lodge St. Jan Nepomucký; five in Plasi, to lodge Cyril a Methoděj; seven in Wilber, to lodge sv. Václava and five in St. Paul, to lodge sv. Pavel.

The first lodge of this Order in Nebraska was that of Ssv. Cyril a Methoděj No. 32, in Wahoo, founded September 15, 1879.

Western Bohemian Catholic Union:

In Czech: Západní Česko Katolická Jednota. The reason for the secession of the lodges belonging to the Bohemian Catholic Central Union, whereby the Western Bohemian Catholic Union was founded, are practically the same for

the secession of the lodges belonging to the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society, which founded the Western Bohemian Fraternal Assn. These western lodges noted that the death-rate in the east, notably in the large cities, was growing higher than in the rural communities of the west. In short, they were beginning to pay out more than they received. The lodges in St. Paul, Minnesota, elected a committee, which sent out circulars regarding the matter, and the concensus of opinion was that the Union be asked to levy smaller assessments on the western lodges, in proper ratio to the deaths in their ranks. A convention was called for September 27, 1898, in Omaha, and the following states sent delegates: Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, South and North Dakota. A committee consisting of Rev. J. Rynda, Rev. J. C. Votýpka, L. J. Kudrna and J. J. Kovářík drafted a petition, stating among other things that the heavy assessments detract young members from joining and will compel the older ones to resign. This petition asked that only fourteen assessments be levied annually on these western states, and agreed, in case assessments in the east reached twenty-five or more annually, to pay two extra assessments, just to help carry the burden. It was agreed, in case this petition be refused, to found a new order. Inasmuch as this very thing happened, the Western Bohemian Catholic Union was established September 29, 1898. Among other improvements was that of arranging assessments according to age of applicant. The first officers were: Rev. J. C. Votýpka, Chaplain; L. J. Kudrna, President; F. P. Rumreich, Vice-President; J. J. Kovářík, Secretary; Joseph Machovec, Treasurer; Dr. Václav J. Hovorka, Physician; Joseph Žaloudek, Charles Youngwirth and Vojtěch Šimek, Trustees. The territory was Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. Two divisions were provided for, the second for the old members who would have been unable to keep up their assessments under the former rates. This Union was incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa and began its existence on January 1, 1899, with 63 lodges in Division I and 10 in Division II. Nebraska came forward with the following:

Division I: Ssv. Cyrila a Methoděje No. 1, Omaha; Sv. Jana Křtitele No. 3, South Omaha; Sv. Václava No. 9, Tábor; Nejsvětější Trojice No. 11, Brainard; Sv. Václava No. 15, Omaha; Ssv. Petra a Pavla No. 16, Prague; Sv. Václava No. 19, Verdigre; Sv. Petra No. 22, St. Paul; Ssv. Petra a Pavla No. 23, Abie; Sv. Jana Nepomuckého No. 24, Weston; Sv. Václava No. 25, Ravenna; Sv. Jana Nepomuckého No. 29, Omaha; Sv. Václava No. 31, Milligan; Sv. Josefa No. 32, Omaha; Sv. Vincence No. 33, Crete; Sv. Jana Křtitele No. 34, Morse Bluff; Sv. Jana Nepomuckého No. 37, Plattsmouth; Sv. Václava No. 38, Dodge; Ssv. Cyrila a Methoděje No. 41, Plasi; Ssv. Cyrila a Methoděje No. 44, Wahoo; Sv. Josefa Kal No. 45, David City (Appleton); Sv. Václava No. 47, South Omaha; Sv. Václava No. 58, Plattsmouth; Sv. Václava No. 60, Netolice (Geranium); Ssv. Petra a Pavla No. 61, Lawn.

Later the following joined: Sv. Josefa No. 65, Howell; Sv. Václava No. 71, Bruno; Ssv. Petra a Pavla No. 72, Lawrence; Sv. Tadeáše No. 74, Dwight.

Division II: Sv. Jana Nepomuckého No. 4, Weston; Ssv. Cyrila a Methoděje No. 7, Wahoo; Sv. Josefa No. 9, Plasi.

During the convention held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1903, the lodges in Division II were given permission to enter those in Division I and eventually all did so. Later it was found that the assessments must be raised to provide a reserve fund for the future and this was done in the convention held in New Prague, Minn., in September, 1922. The Union thus became solvent and safe. In 1929 it was merged with the Catholic Workman.

Catholic Workman:

In Czech: Katolický Dělník. The first lodge of this order was established in Heun, that of Ssv. Petra a Pavla No. 6, June 1, 1894. At the present time there are in Nebraska the following lodges with 1,654 members, whose insurance amounts to $1,726,615.00:

Ssv. Petra a Pavla No. 6 (Heun) Clarkson; Sv. Václava No. 7, St. Paul; Sv. Prokopa No. 8, Scribner; Sv. Bartoloměje No. 11, Plattsmouth; Sv. Václava No. 13, Prague; Sv. Jana Nepomuckého No. 14, Howell; Sv. Josefa No. 15, Ravenna; Sv. Ivana No. 16, Brainard; Sv. Prokopa No. 17, Weston; Sv. Prokopa No. 18, Omaha; Ssv. Cyrila a Methoděje No. 20, Abie; Sv. Marka No. 26, Weston; Narození Páně No. 32, Dwight; Sv. Jana Nepomuckého No. 34, Verdigre; Sv. Ladislava No. 36, Valparaiso; Ssv. Petra a Pavla No. 37, South Omaha; Sv. Josefa No. 40, Clarkson; Sv. Josefa No. 41, Crete; Sv. Josefa No. 43, Monowi; Sv. Josefa No. 44, Geneva; Sv. Antonína Paduánského No. 53, Bruno; Nejsvětější Srdce Ježíše No. 55, Morse Bluff; Sv. Václava No. 58.

Wahoo; Ssv. Cyrila a Methoděje No. 62, David City; Sv. Lukáše No. 69, Loma; Sv. Josefa No. 74, Stratton; Sv. Václava No. 76, Linwood; Sv. Josefa No. 80, Clarkson; Sv. Josefa No. 81, South Omaha; Sv. Josefa No. 83, St. Paul; Sv. Josefa No. 122, Schuyler; Sv. Vojtěcha No. 127, Omaha.

Catholic Sokol Union:

In Czech: Katolická Jednota Sokol. The first club of this Union was that of sv. Václav in Omaha, organized

Catholic Sokol Home in Omaha

July 18, 1893. There are in Nebraska the following, with 427 members:

Omaha, South Side, No. 1; Verdigre, No. 12; Howell, No. 17; Weston, No. 26; Dodge, No. 35; Omaha, No. 43; Abie No. 49; Prague, No. 50; Clarkson, No. 54.

Women's Bohemian Roman Catholic Central Union:

In Czech: Česká Římsko-Katolická Ústřední Jednota Žen. There are the following lodges of this Order in Nebraska, with 1,118 members:

No. 29, Crete (being the first, established April 22, 1891); No. 36, South Omaha; No. 39, Omaha; No. 44, Wilber; No. 46, Omaha; No. 50, South Omaha; No. 55, Tobias; No. 67, Clarkson; No. 68, Brainard; No. 69, Weston; No. 73, Plattsmouth; No. 77, Bruno; No. 78, Weston; No. 79, Abie; No. 80, Morse Bluff; No. 82, Howell; No. 94, Verdigre; No. 95, St. Paul; No. 108, Schuyler; No. 112, Touhy; No. 113, Morse Bluff; No. 114, Dodge; No. 127, Ulysses; No. 128, Clarkson; No. 129, Omaha; No. 141, Omaha; No. 146, Bee.

Women's Sokol Clubs: No. 1, South Omaha; No. 12, Verdigre; No. 17, Howell; No. 26, Weston; No. 35, Dodge; No. 43, Omaha. Numbering 720 members.

Daughters of Columbus:

In Czech: Dcery Kolumbovy. The first society of this Order was that of sv. Alžběta, founded in South Omaha, January 1, 1906, bearing No. 1. Then followed those listed below, numbering in all 665 members:

Sv. Anna No. 2, Howell; Jmenování Panny Marie No. 3, Crete; Panna Marie Lurdská No. 4, Milligan; Sv. Kateřina No. 5, Omaha (St. Wenceslaus church); Sv. Ludmila No. 6, South Omaha; Sv. Alžběta No. 9, Omaha (St. Wenceslaus church); Sv. Alžběta No. 10, Omaha (St. Adalbert's church).

Czechs In World War

Jos. T. Votava

Soon after the beginning of the World War (1914-1918) a Bohemian National Alliance was formed in the United States, its object being to gather funds to help in the work of freeing Bohemia from its three-hundred-year-old subjection to Austria. The mid-western district of this alliance, with headquarters in Omaha (F. J. Kuták, and later J. T. Votava, President, Stanley Šerpán, Secy. and Matt. Votava, Treas.), succeeded in raising from Czechs—individuals and organizations—in the following Czech towns in Nebraska: Abie, Barneston, Beemer, Brainard, Bruno, Burwell, Clarkson, Crete, David City, Dodge, Dubois,

Dwight, Exeter, Friend, Hemingford, Howell, Humboldt, Lincoln, Linwood, Lynch, Milligan, Morse Bluff, Niobrara, North Bend, Odell, Omaha, Ord, Pawnee City, Plattsmouth, Prague, Ravenna, Schuyler, South Omaha, Spencer, Table Rock, Thurston, Tobias, Ulysses, Verdigre, Wilber and Wymore, the following amounts:

1914	$ 174.50
1915	1,000.00
1916	6,000.00
1917	25,799.00
1918	100,881.00
1919	16,500.00
A total of	$150,354.50

To this should be added the Czech Fund, collected by the Hospodář and Osvěta Americká (published by the National Printing Company) from its readers, $8,345.96; the amount collected in the state by the members of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, $5,000; National Alliance of Bohemian Catholics, $65,000.00; the proceeds of a bazaar held in Omaha in September, 1918, $65,109.20, or a total of $293,809.66. Besides this, individuals sent to their relatives and friends in money and clothing, etc., an amount it would be difficult to estimate, but which undoubtedly may be reckoned close to $100,000.00.

In 1917 the Czech Catholics in this country established an organization similar to the Bohemian National Alliance, called the National Alliance of Bohemian Catholics in America (Svaz Českých Katolíků v Americe) and collected, for the same purpose, $65,000.00 from the Czech inhabitants of the following towns and vicinities: Abie, Bee, Brainard, Dodge, Dwight, Geranium, Howell, Milligan, Omaha, Ord, Plattsmouth, Ravenna, Verdigre and Wahoo. Of the states where Czech Catholics live in the United States, Nebraska held first place. The headquarters for the committee for the midwestern dis-

Vác. F. Jelínek

trict were in Omaha and the following served: John Váňa, Pres.; Joseph Nejepinský, Vice-Pres.; V. F. Jelínek, Secretary; N. C. Mlejnek, Treasurer. Later Joseph F. Krejčí also served as Secretary. Mr. Jelínek is still Secretary, for the Alliance has not disbanded, but continues as an organization, although not for the aims for which it was founded.

An auxiliary of the Bohemian National Alliance was established soon after, called "The Bees" (Včelky). The women made knitted articles, underclothing, kits, etc., and sent these, with tobacco, first to the Czech soldiers fighting in France with the French and with those of their compatriots who had escaped from Austria's clutches. Later many of these supplies were sent to Siberia, where Czech soldiers, who voluntarily surrendered to the Russians, when they could, to avoid the duty of fighting for Austria, had made their dreary way. The headquarters for the mid-western division of The Bees also were in Omaha, with Mrs. Anna Sedláček as President, Miss Rose Rosický and later Mrs. Emma Šerpán Secretary, and Mrs. Anna Mulač, Treasurer. These women collected $5,176,84 for material and $619.19 for tobacco and reading matter. This division of The Bees was the only one that, in true western fashion, gave freely not only of their services, but the officers personally paid postage and other expenses connected with their office and the National Printing Company of Omaha donated stationery and printing matter, so that every cent collected was expended for material or transportation charges, one hundred percent. All women, regardless of creed, worked together. Mrs. Julia Štěnička of Omaha, wife of Charles Štěnička (manager of the mammoth bazaar of which mention follows) also gave of

Mrs. F. A. (Anna) Sedláček

her services and donated the use of her store, where work was given out and received and the boxes packed.

The mammoth Liberty Bazaar held by the Czechs of Omaha and Nebraska, September 1 to 8, 1918, in the Omaha Auditorium, the proceeds of which ($65,109.20), were given to the work of helping free Bohemia, was not only the greatest undertaking achieved by the Czechs of the midwest, but was the largest affair of its kind accomplished by Bohemians anywhere in this country. Charles E. Štěnička was general manager, with Joseph J. Pavlík as assistant. The chairman of the bazaar committee was Václav Tesař, secretary J. E. Pták, assistant secretary F. C. Šindelář, treasurer Václav

Mrs. Chas. (Julia) Štěnička

Chas. Štěnička

F. Kuncl, assistant treasurer John S. Kramoliš and the following served on various assisting committees: V. F. Jelínek, Jos. H. Tetiva, Joseph Jelínek, George Váňa, James Urban, Fr. S. Kolouch, Stanley Šerpán, John H. Killian, Walter Kořisko, Jos. H. Proskočil, Cyril Hromek and John G. Rosický. From the Omaha donors, in money and articles, was collected the sum of $22,585.26; Ansley, $26.00; Atkinson, $261.50; Beemer, $500.00; Cheyenne County, $275.00; Clarkson, $500.00 (and 200 ladies' aprons); Dodge, $1,861.00; Elba, $30.00; Farwell, $155.00; Hartington, $81.50; Hemingford, $406.00; Milligan, $5,006.00; Morse Bluff, $828.50; Pierce, $953.35; Plattsmouth, $1,161.40; Ravenna,

$529.65; St. Paul, $505.00; Stanton, $250.00; Sumner, $175.50; Wausa, $10.50, and various others $3,406.50. The bazaar was opened on Sunday afternoon, September 1st, by our war governor, Keith Neville. Among the many gifts received was one from Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, wife of the president of the United States, a framed and autographed etching of the White House.

In the summer of 1921 Mrs. Julia Štěnička visited Czechoslovakia and while in Prague presented the following to the Revolutionary Museum of that city: A brochure describing the bazaar and containing a complete list of all donors and financial reports; the picture donated by Mrs. Wilson; the original of the cartoon made by Guy R. Spencer of Omaha and printed in the Omaha daily World Herald (pertaining to the bazaar) and a pipe donated by a Czech farmer. This pipe originally belonged to the famous Czech patriot Karel Havlíček Borovský and for that reason was considered too valuable to sell. These articles were accepted for the museum through Lieut. Rudolph Medek.

Among the various activities tending toward the freeing of Bohemia from Austria and setting up a republic was that of couriers, whose task it was to deliver personal messages at the risk of their lives. Several Czechs from this country were sent to Bohemia for this purpose and the only one selected from the middle west was Charles Šteiger of Omaha. Mr. Šteiger was born June 29, 1860, in Kmentňoves near Velvary, Bohemia, and came to this country, to Chicago, in 1883, then to Schuyler, Nebr., and shortly thereafter to Omaha, where he has lived since. In October, 1916, he set out for London, to receive from T. G. Masaryk (now president of Czechoslovakia) messages to be orally conveyed to various prominent patriotic workers in Prague. He arrived in that city October

Charles Šteiger

28, 1916. Under guise of being a representative of the National Printing Company of Omaha, sent there to buy books for its book store, he achieved his object successfully. However, the difficulties encountered in travelling in those times and the severe strain under which he labored, almost destroyed his health. He returned to Omaha in the spring of 1917. A brochure was published in Prague in 1926, written by Mr. Šteiger, describing his experiences.

The Czechs in Omaha may feel honored that from their midst issued the first call in favor of the movement which culminated in freeing Bohemia. It had its inception when Václav Tesař, who at the time was conducting Metz Hall (now the Catholic Sokol Home) in conversation with John Janák, editor of the weekly Osvěta Americká, on the first Monday in August, 1914, a week after the World War broke out, urged him (Janák) to awaken Czechs to action. In the Osvěta Americká of August 12, 1914, an article was published, bearing the heading: "Important moments for the Czech nation. Our nation in these days is at stake—to be or not to be."—The article began thus: 'There has never been a time in modern history so important for the Czech nation as right now. The present European war will decide not only the existence or non-existence of Austria, but also the existence or non-existence of Bohemia . . . One thing is certain: that Austria is battling for the wrong and against the greater strength of intelligent nations and that it must lose. . . The time will come, sooner or later, when the war is over, that steps will undoubtedly be taken to dismember this empire (Austria)."—The editor says further: "Martial law prevails in Bohemia. No one can leave that country, no one can enter it and it is for the Czechs in the United States to ask the parliaments of the European countries, who will decide on the future fate of conquered

Václav Tesař

Austria, to raise their protecting hand over the Bohemian nation. The European powers can, when dictating the peace terms, give Bohemia independence, or at least autonomy under their protectorate. And it is for us, who live beyond the boundaries of Austria, to take the first step in that direction, in order that we be prepared to send petitions to the Russian, English and French governments, or perhaps send representatives to those countries, and for that purpose money will be needed." In that issue a popular subscription was founded, called The Czech Fund, which eventually reached a total of $8,345.96. Although even among Czechs themselves were doubters, the fact remained that the movement thus instituted soon grew to national proportions and became known as the Bohemian National Alliance.

Václav Tesař was born October 22, 1870, in Chotěboř, Bohemia, and in 1896 married Miss Mary Vařejčka. He came to this country, to Omaha, in 1902. At present he is in the real estate business, in company with his sons. Mr. Tesař has always been active in lodge life, particularly in the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association and the Těl. Jed. Sokol, and worked hard for freeing Bohemia during the war. He was treasurer of the recruiting committee in 1917—1919 (Czechoslovak legionnaires) and chairman of the committee that carried through so successfully the mammoth Liberty Bazaar in Omaha in September, 1918.

Lest the reader should infer that Czechs in Nebraska supported any movement favoring the freeing of their mother-country at the expense of their patriotism as Americans, it should be explained that they did their full duty in the latter respect also. Thus, it will be seen, they carried almost a double load. They contributed financially in every way required by the United States at that time and the women were very active in all American Red Cross work, where their ability to knit skilfully and rapidly (an ability common to all the older women of Europe) was very welcome. In the larger settlements Czech chapters of the Red Cross were organized. In other communities, less heavily settled by Czechs, they worked together with the rest.

The Secretary of the State of Nebraska, Charles W. Pool, in 1925 published a roster of soldiers, sailors and marines,

who had served in the Civil, Indian, Spanish-American and World Wars and were living in Nebraska at the time. This list was compiled by county and precinct assessors and is probably as complete as such a list can well be, except the names of those who had died or been killed in service, or had moved away since the close of the wars. The following Czech names appear among those who participated in the World War (1914—1918):

Steve Aksamit, Wilber (Co. B, 318 Eng.); Joseph Ambrož, Ravenna (not assigned); L. J. Ambrož, Ravenna, (Co. A, 41st Supply).

Peter Badura, Ansley (Battery B, 15th Field Art.); L. T. Bahenský, Palmer (Co. A, 2nd Eng.); Ant. A. Barnaš, Pender (Co. A, 2nd Eng); Fred Bárta, Omaha (Navy); John Bárta, Spencer (Supply Co. 16, I Div.); James Bárta, Albion (Co I, 15th); M. Bárta, Comstock (Co. A, 355th Inf.); Rud. Bárta, Linwood (Co. 133, Q. M. C.); E. V. Bartek, Ewing (U. S. S. Dorsey); Philip Bartek, Weston (Co. 60); Mike Bartelec Jr., Abie (Evac. Hosp. No. 9); Ed. Bartle, St. Paul, Jaroslav Bartoš, Otto Bartoš, Lad'a Bartoš (navy), all Omaha; James Bartoš, Verdigre (Co. E, 103rd.); Ed. Bartuněk, Schuyler (Co. 10); F. J. Bartuněk, Abie (Co. G, 314 Ammun.); Wm. Bartuněk, Tobias (Co. A, S. A. T. C.); Ed. Bashus, Plattsmouth, (Co. A, 314th Am. Train); Ed. J. Bašta, Creighton (S. A. T. C.); Fr. Batelka, Clarkson (Co. F, 314th Am. Train); Vlad. Bauer, Milford (Med. Dept.); Jos Bažant, Valparaiso (Air Service); George Bednář, Omaha, Joseph Bednář, Oconto (Co. F, 127th); Joseph Beček, Dodge (Co. C, Eng); Paul Beha, O'Neill (320th Supply, G. M. C.); Raymond Bělík, Morse Bluff(Marines); Ed. L. Bena, Florence (Co. 59); Leopold Bedna, Shelby (Co. B, 12th S. B. M.); Louis Bedna, Verdigre (Co. G, 62nd); F. V. Benesh, Ravenna (unassigned); Anton Beran, Ord (Air Service); Otto Beránek, Dix (Depot Brig.); Fr. Bernášek Jr., Geneva (Co. A, 128th Inf.); Jos. J. Besta, Omaha (Co. B, 161st D. B.); John Beza, Dodge (Co. A, 13); Adolph Beznoska, Cedar Bluffs (U. S. destroyer Kimberly); Jos. Beznoska, Cedar Bluffs (Co. D, 136th Inf.); Albert Biba Jr., Exeter (Co. G, 350th Inf.); Ant. J. Bláha, Elba (Co. G, 355th); Chas. Bláha, St. Paul (Co. B, 7th Mach. Gun Batt.); Ralph Bláha, Ord (Med. Dept.); Will F. Bláha, Ord (Co. F, 356th Inf); Alb. Blecha, Benkelman (Co. C, 140th); Louis R. Blecha, Table Rock (Co. K, 3rd Batt.); Jos. F. Blumal, Nebraska City (Co. 46, 164th Depot Brig.); Jos. Boháč, Clarkson (Co. D.); A. W. Bohaboj, Prague (Co. 24, V. U.); Ant. J. Bohatý, Abie (Co. G, 314th Am. Train); John Borovička, Hubbell (Co. A, Guards); Joseph Bors, Milligan (Co. G, 4 J. N. F.); Louis J. Bouc, Valparaiso (Med. Corps); J. W. Bouška, Atkinson (S. A. T. C.); Geo. J. Brabec, Weston (Amb.); Theodore Brabec, Wahoo (Navy Hospital); Jos. Bradka, St. Paul, Ed. F. Brejcha, Western (Reg.); Ed. Břen, Lynch (O. T. C.); Dr. Miles Breuer, Lincoln (Med. Dept.); H. H. Bricka, Lincoln (Med. Dept.); Sidneyl L. Brož, Wilber (Co. A, 355th Inf); Herbert Buchta, Osceola (Co. E, 46th Inf.; Jos. J. Budka, Omaha (Co. 136, Amb. Co.); A. A. Bukáček, Neligh (Co. F, Inf., 19th Div.); B. J. Bukáček, Valparaiso (Co. D, 1st A. A. B.); John Burda, Wilber, Ed D. Bureš, Rogers (Co. 25); John W. Bureš, Morse Bluff (Vet. Hosp. Corps.);

Mathew Bursek, Omaha, E. L. Bydálek, Dannebrog (Co. B. A, 345th S. B.).

Ed. Čada, Clarkson (Co. K, 355th); C. W. Cahota, Valentine (Co. 1, 4th Neb. Inf.); Adolph Cechal, Plattsmouth (Co. D, 355th Inf.); A. H. Černey, St. Paul (Med. Dept.); Ernest Černey, St. Paul, Ed. Chaloupka, Omaha (Co. K, 2nd Neb.); Thos. Chaloupka, Wilber (Co. H, S. A. T. C.); J. V. Charvat, Havelock (355th Inf.); James Chezek, Omaha, Ben. Chezek, Omaha (M. G. 147); Louis Chládek, Verdigre (343rd.); Fr. J. Chmelíř, Scribner (U. S. S. Louisiana); James Chmelka, Thurston (Co. 14, Mach. Gun); Joseph Chmelka, Thurston (O. T. C.); Louis Chocholoušek, Verdigre (Co. H, 355th In.); Fred Chubatý, Arlington, Jerry Chulík, Oshkosh, (15th A. A.); Miloslav Chval, Omaha (Med. Corps); Anton J. Chvatal, Morse Bluff (355th Field Hosp. 39 Div.); Louis E. Číháček, Linwood (105 Am. Train); Vinc. E. Cihlář, Walnut (199th Air Serv.); Louis H. Cinek, Omaha (Co. G, Motor Corps); Frank Císař, Indianola (Motor 3); Ed. Čížek, Osmond (Med. 35th Div.); James Čížek, Osmond (Field Hosp. No. 19); Joseph Čížek, Prague (Co. A, 102nd); Geo. F. Čížek, Wilber (Co. B, 318 Eng.); Ed. R. Coufal, Brainard (Camp Hosp.); L. J. Coufal, Benson (Co. C); Ed. Čudlý, Milligan (Co. D, 350th Inf.); John Culek, Garrison (342nd Field Art.); Emil Čurda, Weston (Bat. D, 127th Field Art.); James Čurda, Weston (67th Art. C. A. C.).

Wm. Dezort, Burchard (340th F. R.); Alb. Diviš, Brainard (Co. I, 355th, 89th Div.); Fr. H. Diviš, Bee (Inf.); Emil A. Dobrý, Center (Co. H, Marines); A. S. Doležal, Wahoo (315th Supply Co.); Emil Doležal, Valparaiso (134th Inf.); Fr. E. Doležal, Colon (39th Hdq.); G. M. Doležal, Lincoln (30th Inf. 3rd Div.); A. H. Dranselka, Omaha (125th Vet. Corps); John Drapal, Lawrence (Co. A, 134th); Chas. A. Drda, Wilber (Co. E); Frank Drdla, Omaha (140 Camp Funston); A. Paul Drobný, Verdigre (Co. 2, 158th Depot Brig.); Stan. Drozd, Duncan, James, Drudík, Fairfield (Co. C, 3rd); Lawrence Drudík Jr., Lawrence (18th Vet.); J. C. Ducháček, Meadow Grove (Co. A); Adolph Duchek, Crete(81st Baloon Service); Fr. Dufek, David City (Co. G, 46th Div.); Jos. F. Dufek, David City (Co. G, 20th Inf.; Maxwell Dušátko, Brainard (H. A. F.); Ed. Dušek, Bladen (Hdq. 134th); Carl Dvořáček, Blue Hill (Co. 9, G. S. 2); Geo. W. Dvořák, Rising City (U. S. A. Base Hosp.); Henry Dwořak, Howell (Co. D); Joseph Dworak, David City (U. S. A. Base Hosp.); Thos. Dvořák, Verdigre.

Frank A. Eis Jr., Humboldt (356th); Ant. F. Elznic, Geneva (Co. C, Machine Gun).

Emil Faferta, Ord (Co. E, 355th Inf.); Fr. Faferta, Ord (Co. E, 355th Inf.); Adolph J. Fayman, Clarkson (355th); Gus. B. Fayman, Clarkson (Co. 843); Emil Ferenc, Morse Bluffs (Co. B, 16th Inf.); Chas. Fiala, Brainard (S. 20th In.); Fr. Fiala, Omaha, Geo. Fiala, Howell, Jos. Fiala, Omaha, Jos. Fiala, Omaha (Hdq. 127, Field Art.); J. P. Fiala Howell (385th); Fr. Filip, Western (Co. B, 354 Reg); Frank Finkral, Battle Creek (Co. B, 19th Train); Ed. Fitl, Swanton (Co. C, 341st Mach. Gun Batt.); Wm. W. Fitl, Swanton (Med. Corps); Richard M. Franta, Crete (350th Inf.); Adolph Freeouf, Wilber, Frank Freeouf, Wilber Joseph Frokner, Prague (Co. E, 109 Eng.).

Ed. Gruber, St. Paul (Co. C, Con.).

Fr. Habrich, Virginia (318th Brig., 163rd R. D. D. B.); Adolph Hadáček, Haigler (Co. B, Mach. Gun Batt.); John Hadáček, Haigler (Co. A, Mach. Gun. Batt.); John L. Hadraba, Plattsmouth (Co. 47, S. S.); Alois Hájek, Sidney (1st Batt., 40th Inf.); John Hájek, Stanton, Wm. Hájek, Mullen, Ed. Hajný, Omaha (Goose Island); John Halada, Crete (Supply Co., 134th); Jos. Halva, Lynch (Co. H, 69th Inf.); Victor Halva, Niobrara (Co. A, C. C.); James Hambek, Spencer (Co. 15, Cavalry); James Hamek, Omaha (Industrial Service); Henry Hamik, Stuart, Louis Hanzlík, Verdel (Co. G, 355th Inf.); Henry Hapek, Lynch (Co. H. G., 134th Inf.); Jos. Hašek, Omaha (Co. G, 61st Reg.); Lawrence Hatra, Bellwood (Co. D); Roy Hatra, David City (Co. A); Louis Hausner, Brainard (351st Inf.); Paul Havel, Clarkson (Co. G); Ant. J. Havelka, Colon (Co. A, 314th Am. Train); John Havlic, Haigler (Ord. Dept. Mach. Gun. Batt.); Lumír Havlíček, Crete (Hdq., 355th); Frank J. Havlovic, Prague (Co. G, 310 Inf.); Jos. Hejtmánek, Clarkson (Co. 52, 164th); Jas. Hecl (Co. B, 361 Inf.); Frank Henza, Grand Island (310, M. T. C. R. U.); Milton Herbrich, Omaha. Jos. F. Herian, Antioch (15th Div.); Fr. E. Herout, Verdigre (Co. E, 313th); Ed. A. Hesh, Crete (352nd); Alb. S. Hineš, Morse Bluff (869 Aero Squadron); George Hlad, Leigh (Co. I, 363rd Inf.); Chas. Hladík, Weston (Battery E, 355th Field Art.); Claud Hlaváč, Brainard (Battery B, 127th Field Art.); Fred Hlaváč, Brainard (Co. K, 349 Inf.); Henry R. Hobek, Verdigre (Inf. Reserve Corps); F. W. Hodek, Omaha (356th Inf.); Fr. Hoffman, Wilber, Stanley Hoffman, Wilber (248th Amb.); L. J. Hokuf Bertrand (Co. C, 355th Inf.); Jos. Holásek, F. L. Holub, Omaha; Jacob Holub, Prague (Co. A, 20th Med.); Wm. Holub, Ravenna (Co. D, 4th Inf.); John Holý, Schuyler (106th Eng.); Henry A Honack, Omaha (Co. 13, 1st Neb. Reg.); John A. Horáček, Brainard (Battery E, 29th Field Art.); J. F. Horáček, Elba (Co. M, 70th Inf.); Jos. M. Horáček, Chambers (Battery Co., 17th Field Art.); Fr. Horák, Wilber (14th Vet. Corps); Jas. B. Horák, Richland (7th); Jos. Horák, Ravenna (Co. D, 137th Inf.); Ladislav Horák, Clarkson (Co. 47); Wm. Horák, St. Libory (Bakery Co. 37th); Fred Horký, Valparaiso (Co. A, 10th Inf.); John Horníček, Lodgepole, (Attending Serg. Office Garis); Harold Horney, Tobias (Co. A, 89th); Fr. A. Hotový, Ulysses (Co. G, 314th Am.); Gustav Houfek, Malmo (134th Inf.); Louis F. Houfek, Schuyler (Co. 347); Fred J. Houžvička, Exeter (Co. M, 355th Inf.); Louis Houžvička, Verdigre (Q. M. C.); V. C. Hovorka, Randolf (Co. 350 Inf.); C. B. Hroch, Wymore, Chas. Hroch, Barneston (Co. D, 101st Inf.); E. F. Hromas, Dorchester (Co. M, 355th); Fr. J. Hromek, Lynch (Co. 42, 164th D. B.); Ed. Hronek, Imperial (Co. B, 15th Inf.); Rudolph Hronek, Howell, Adolph A. Hrubý, Touhy (Co. I, Mech. Transport); Ed. Hubka, Falls City (Co. A); Emil Hubka, Pawnee City (107th Field Art.); F. D. Hubka, Virginia (Machine Gun, 350th, Inf.); Jas. Hula, Prague (Co. C, Div. Batt.); Jos. Huletz, Table Rock (Co. E, 1st Cavalry); Ad. J. Humlíček, Abie (Co. I, 62nd Inf.); Wm. J. Humpal, Atkinson (Signal Corps); Lotto Hynek, Humboldt (Co. E, 109th Eng.); Milo Hynek, Plattsmouth (Co. E, 457th Mar.); Wm. Hynek, Humboldt (Co. 8, 6th Nebr.); Wm. A. Hynek, Morse Bluff (H. D. 2., 134th Inf.).

Fr. Jakoubek, Valparaiso (Inf.); Jos. Janáček, Wilber (Co. B, 54th Coast Art.); Oldřich Janák, Burwell (Co. 1, S. A. T. C.); Alb. S.

Janda, Plattsmouth (S. A. T. C.); Jerry J. Janda, Wilber (18th Am. Depot); John J. Janda, Lawrence, W. J. Janda, Omaha (20th Baloon); John Janíček, Shelby (Co. G, 305th); Emil Janík, Fr. B. Janík, Omaha; Karl L. Janouch, Halsey (Co. 30, 20th Eng.); Fr. J. Janoušek, Clarkson (676th); Alfred A. Janovský, Fremont (336th Supply Co.); Ed. Jareš, Elba (Co. F, 14th, 3rd Div.); August Jarosh, Farwell (127th Field Art.); Fr. E. Jarosh, Omaha (164th Depot Brigade); Jos. A. Jarosh, Omaha (340th Field Art.); Fr. Jaroš, Pawnee City (17th Vet. Corps); Anton Jaša, Wahoo (316th Air Service); Vlad. Jáša, Weston (S. A. E. F.); Jas. Jecha, Brainard (Co. A, 14th M. G.); F. A. Jelen, Gretna, Adolph Jelínek, Swanton (Co. G, Reg.); Chas. Jelínek, Omaha (352nd Inf.); Ed. Jelínek, Abie (Co. 61); H. M. Jelínek, Dunning (18th Vet. Hosp.); J. A. Jelínek, Hemingford (76, M. Dep., Reg.); Mike Jelínek, Powell (Co. 166); R. J. Jelínek, Touhy (Hdq. 335th Inf.); John Jeník, Wayne (S. A. T. C.); Jerome Jerman, West Point (Ordnance); Jos. A. Jerman, West Point (Co. K, 355th Inf.); L. W. Jerman, West Point (Main Camp); Joseph H. Ježek, Hemingford (Remount, 323rd); Henry Jicka, Lawrence (Co. F, 128th Inf.); Vlad. J. Jiša, Weston (Creighton S. A. T. C.); Adolph A. Jonáš, Clarkson (Co H); Ben Jonáš, Clarkson (Co. 313, B); Anton M. Juráček, Weston (18th Baloon Serv.); Chas. Juráček, West Point (Co. C).

Jos. Kačmárek, Elwood (Co. G, 104, Am. Train); Jerry Kadlec, Clarkson (Co. 19, 4th); Steve G. Kafka, Beemer (Co. A); Ben Kálal, Niobrara, Frank Kálal, Lynch (Co. Hdq. 69th Reg.); Julius Kalášek, Plattsmouth (Co. 96, 872 Eng.); Wesley J. Kalášek, Plattsmouth (Co. M D, 15th Div.); Jos. Kalčík, Crete (Air Serv.); Stephen Kališ, Coleridge (Co. 306, 88th Div.); Steve Kalíšek, Howell (Co. I, 349); C. F. Kámen, Burchard (356th Amb.); Walter Kaminský, Inavale (Co. B, 355th Inf.); Fred Kaplan, Niobrara, R. Karel, Clarkson (Co. 9, O. H. T.); W. A. Karel, Clarkson (Bemt. 127th); Ed. C. Karlík, Omaha (Co. D, 138th Eng.); Adolph Kasal, Poole (Co. H, 134th Reg.); Adolph Kašpar, Prague (121st), Anton Kašpárek, Omaha (Am. Det.); Fr. Kašpárek, Wilber, Jos. Kašík, Geneva (Co. 13, 314th S. Train); Jos. F. Kašík, Milligan (Co. B, 314th M. S. T.); Chas. Káva, Columbus (127th); Emil Kavan, Omaha (M. T. C. 510, M. S. T. 423); Ed. Killian, Wahoo (Aviation); Ray A. Killian, Wahoo (H. D. 2 Co., 355 Inf.); Wm. M. Killian, Wahoo (Bat. E, 126th F. A.); F. J. Kirchman Jr., Wahoo (Co. D, 356th Inf.); Fr. Klabeneš, Schuyler (Co 37); Otto Klabunda, Louisville (Navy); Ed. Klanecký, Ord (Co. A, 134th Inf.); Jos. F. Klanecký, Farwell (20th Co.); J. W. Klanecký, Ord (Co. A, 134th Inf.); Jos. J. Klein, Bellwood (Co. G); Jos. J. Klein, Milligan (36th Navy); Fr. Klepetko, Chapman (Co. 2, 3rd Batt.); D. Q. Kletečka, Omaha (Co. E, 7th Reg.); Milo Klobora, Schuyler (Co. 109); Fr. John Kment, Omaha (U. S. S. Radior); Jos. Kment, Omaha (Co. F, 3rd Nebr.); Chas. A. Knajdl, Prague (Bat. E, 127 F. A.); Frank Knajdl, Prague (355 Inf. 89th Div.); Geo. D. Knapp, Wilber (Dept. Q. M. C.); Wm. H. Kobrt, Beatrice (Co. 3); Ad. V. Kobza, David City, Louis J. Kobza, Brainard (Co. H, 352nd Inf.); John H. Kochler, Geneva (S. A. T. C.); Frank Kofránek, Milligan (Co. F, 27th Inf.); Ed Kočí, Crete (Co. A, 18th); E. H. Kokjer, Wahoo (Co. 49, C. A. C.); Chas. L. Kolář, Wolbach (Co. 11, 2nd Reg. A. S. M.); Fred Kolář, Exeter (Navy); F. L. Kolář, Cushing (Co. B, Dev. Batt. No. 1); Kr. Koliha, Schuyler (Co. 131); Jos. Koliha, Abie (Co. E, 343rd); J. F.

Komárek, Shickley (Co. B, S. A. T. C.); Fr. Komička, Omaha (Co. G, 50th); F. J. Komsak, St. Paul (Co. L, 20th Inf.); Jos. E. Konecký, Ithaca (177th Vet. Co., Hdq.); J. J. Koníček, Walthill (Co. G, B); Ant. Konopásek, Verdigre (Co. G, 355th); Jos. Kopecký, Omaha (104th Base Hosp.); Edwin D. Koráb, Ann Carr (Co. D, 20th Mach. Gun. Batt.); Fr. Korbel, Verdigre (338th Field Art.); W. J. Korbel, Utica; Rud. Korejzl, Wilber; H. R. Korsal, Plattsmouth (Sec. Serv.); Stephen Korus, Lincoln (Ordnance Dept.); Jos. M. Kosek, Elyria (Co. M, B. D.); Ed. Košťál, Ravenna (138th Inf.); Fr. Košťál, Omaha (S. A. T. C.); Lester Košťál, Ravenna (H. Q., 109th Sign.); Alvin Kostlan, Fremont; Adolph Kotas, Milligan (Q. M. Corps); John F. Kotas, Milligan (131st, A. N. B.); John H. Kotas, Milligan (Co. D, 350th Inf.); Ed. Kotík, St. Paul; F. J. Kotlář, Snyder (Co. M, 30th Inf. Reg.); Ernest H. Kouba, Friend (M. P., 221st); R. E. Kouba, Verdigre (Co. B); Fr. Koukal, Weston (Co. G, Infantry); Alb. Kounovský, Wood Lake (Co. 20, 5th Reg.); John Kounovský, Pishelville (Co. F); Fred Koranda, Havelock; James Koutník, Morse Bluff (Med. Dept. 119th F. A.); Stephen Kovanda, Exeter (Co. M, 355th Inf.); Chas. J. Kovářík, Snyder (Co.6, 43rd Inf.); Ed. L. Koza, Bruno (Co. D, 109th); Chas. J. Kozlík, Crete (83rd Field Art.); Fr. Král, Richland; J. W. Král, Western Co. A, 137th); Wm. Králik, Lindsay (B. P., 137th); Chas. J. Kranda, Omaha (Camp Grant); John Kratka, Norfolk (Co. B, Regular); Fr. Kratochvil, Wilber (Co. G, 42nd Inf.);Chas. Krejčí, Exeter (Norfolk Sta.); Emil Krejčí, Exeter (3rd Batt. Inf., Repl.); Fr. Krejčí Jr., Schuyler (Co. K, 355th); Jos. Krejčí, Marple (149th By.); Louis Křejdle, Geneva (Co. 63, 163rd Depot. Brig.); Ed. Kremláček, St. Paul (Co. E, 429th M. S. T.); Henry Krenk, Niobrara (Co. B. A., 67th); James Krenk, Niobrara; Wm. Křepela, West Point; A. Kreshel, Tobias (Batt. D, 102nd Field Art.); Chas. Kreshel, Wilber (Navy); Ludwig Kresl, West Point (Co. K, 355th Inf., 89th Div.); V. Křikač Jr., Comstock (Hdq. 10th, 164th Depot Brig.); Lew Křikava, Virginia (Co. 13, 14th Machine Gun Batt.); Geo. Křivánek, Plattsmouth (Navy); Ed. Kříž, Brainard (10th Div.); Emil Kříž, Hemingford (Co. B, 350th); Fr. Kříž, Hemingford (Co. 323); Jos. A. Kříž, Brainard (14 Reg. Battery F.); Dr. R. E. Kříž, Lynch (Navy); Fr. C. Kroupa, Verdigre (5th Am. Train); George Kroupa, Omaha (Navy); Joseph Kroulík, Havelock (Battery Co., 5th Field Art.); Otto L. Krula, Sumner (Hosp. Corps); A. Krupička, Wilber (Co. M, 335th Inf.); Adolph Krupička, Milligan (Co. 2, D. B. G. G.); Joseph A. Krysl, Stuart (53rd Baloon Co.); Chas. Kubas, Silver Creek; Fr. Kubát, Geneva (Battery F, 127th Field Art.); John J. Kubát, Omaha (Co. C, 340th Field Art.); John J. Kubišta, Prague (Co. 9, Am. Train); J. A. Kubišta, Pierce (G. M. C.); Fr. Kubitschek, O'Neill (Dental Corps); Alb. Kučera, Hay Springs (Co. A, Infantry); Frank Kučera, Du Bois (Co. F, 355th); Fred Kučera, Table Rock (Co. C, 29th Machine Gun); Fr. M. Kučera, Rushville (Supply Co., 355th Inf.); Jas. Kučera, Clarkson (253rd); Joseph A. Kučera, Weston (Co. I., 2nd Inf.); Otto Kučera, Crete (S. A. T. C.); Joseph Kudera, Schuyler (Co. D); Fr. Kudlček, Wilber (Co. 20); John Kudrna, Mullen (22nd Inf.); Jos. J. Kudrna, Wahoo (Co. C, 341st Mach. Gun); Henry Kugler, Lodgepole (Batt. F, 339th Field Art.); J. J. Kugler Jr., Brainard (Co. 11); J. F. Kukral, Verdigre (354th F); Henry F. Kulish, Niobrara (Battery C, Artillery);

Henry Kuncl, Omaha (Navy); Herry M. Kunc, Crab Orchard (Machine Co., 87th Inf.); Rudolph Kunc, Wilber (Co. G, 42nd Inf.); Ant. I. Kupka, Crete (Am. 126th); Jos. Kusák, Prague (Co. F, 16th); Chas. Kuta, Columbus (81st Base Hosp.); Ed. Kutička, Ravenna (Co. F, 4thInf.); Jos. Kůželka, Beemer (Co. D, 314th Am. Train); Fr. E. Kváček, Sumner (U. S. S. Saturn); J. G. Kyndl, Ravenna (Co. 27, Air Service).

Ed. Lahodný, Beatrice (Co. 130, 160th); John Lala, Comstock (Co. E, 3rd Inf.); Ralph E. Landa, Lexington; Ed. Laník, Wahoo (31st Field Art.); Emil Lašanský, Springfield (Hdq. Dept.); Adolph Laštovica, Omaha (Chief Mechanic); Frank Laštovica, Omaha; Ed. F. Laun, Milligan (Co. A. S. A. T. C.); Arnold Lepík, Hastings (Co. E, 109th Eng.); George Lidmila, Hoskins (Co. E, 352nd); John Liska, Bee (28th Art.); Joseph Lopour, Clarkson (Supply Co.); Jos. Lorenc, South Omaha (105th Field Hosp.); J. J. Loukota, Gross (Co. 3 D, 7th M. G.); Jos. Lukáš, Omaha (C. L. 355th, 3rd 89th Div.).

Jos. Mach, Verdigre (161st Depot. Brig.); Anton Máchal, Omaha (6th Nebr.); Geo. Machovec, Weston (7th Construction); Jos. B. Machovský, Clarkson (Co. 6, C. A. C.); Art. Malatka, Loup City (Med. Dept.); Fred J. Malý, Valparaiso (314th Train); J. W. Malý, Valparaiso (Ordnance Dept.); Ed. P. Mareš, Dorchester (47th C. A. C.); Geo. F. Mareš, Wahoo (U. S. S. Nevada); Henry Mareš, Wilber (Co. H, 14th Inf.); Fr. J. Mařík, Dodge; Rudy Mařík, Lodgepole (423rd T, Batt.); C. J. Maroušek, Overton; Ed. Mašek, Wilber (251st Air Serv.); Jos. J. Mašek, Chapman (Co. 6, 606th); Fr. G. Mašinda, Omaha (27th Field Art.); John C. Mastný, Stanton (Co. C, Sig. Batt.); Will Matějíček, Monowi (Co. 33, Q. M. C.); Emil Matějka, Howell (Co. 493); Rud. J. Matějka, Ohiowa (323rd Air Service); F. C. Meduna, Weston (Co. G, 314th Am. Train); Lloyd R. Meduna, Wahoo (Base Hosp. 49); Guy Melsha, Lynch (Co. M, 3rd Inf.); Barney L. Micek, Columbus (Co. H, 59th Inf.); Joseph Miček, Shelby; John J. Míšek, North Bend; Edward Miško, Ord; Fr. Miško, Ord (Air Service); Fr. Misnar, Doniphan (Co. 20, C. A. C.); F. H. Mizera, David City (Co. B, 314 H. T.); Fr. Mládek, Poole (Co. C, 40th); Fr J. Moravec, Bee (Co. G, Hdq.); J. J. Moravec, Bee (25th Coast Art.); Chas. Mrkvička, Ravenna (Co. D, 8th); F. J. Mrkvička, Farwell (Base Hosp. 81st); John Mrkvička, Ravenna (Co. 342, Supply); C. A. Mršný, Snyder (Co. B. E. 14th Reg.); Jos. Musil, Prague (Motor Transport Corps); Wm. Musil, Ravenna (Co. A, 341st).

Chas. Naiberk, Ravenna (Medical Corps No. 3); Jos. Nalezinek, Malmo (U. S. S. Madawaska); Vennie Němeček, Wahoo (Hosp. Corps); Albert Nováček, Walnut (354th C. T., 314th T. R.); Anton Novák, Omaha (Co. C, 23rd Batt.); Chas. Novák, Prague (63rd Marine Guard Co.); Earl O. Novák, Orchard (Co. I, 29th Inf.); Fr. Novák, Geneva (134th Inf.); Jos. Novák, Lawrence (Co. 631, A. S. Air Service); Ralph Novák, Schuyler (Training Camp); John Novotný, Madison (Co. C, 119th); Jos. Novotný, Meadow Grove (102nd); Jos. Novotný, Prague (30th F. B.); Anton Nový, Omaha (136th Amb. Co.); Jos. Nožička, Abie (B. B. C. F. A.); Jos. Neděla, Wilber (U S. S. Louisiana); Jos. Nejepinský, Omaha (Artillery); Ant. J. Netherda, Crofton (U. S. S. Huron).

Chas. Okřina, Abie (Co. G, 109th Eng.); Geo. J. Omada, Dodge M. G. Reg.); C. H. Ondrák, Ravenna (Cr. Batt.); Henry F. Ondrák, Ravenna (12th Vet. Hosp.); John Ondrák, Ravenna (Co. 1, Reg.); F. N. Opočenský, Bee; John Ort, Brainard (Co. 6, 20th Eng.); Fr. J. Otradovec, Pilger (Co. D, 408th Tel. Batt.); V. J. Otradovský, Cedar Bluffs (428th Eng.).

Edward A. Pabian, Morse Bluff (314 Amm. Train, 89th Div.); John W. Pabian, Prague (Co. E, C. A. C.); Emil Pakeš, Petersburg (U. S. N. R. F.); Jos. Pakeš, Petersburg (Aviation School); John H. Paláček, Plattsmouth (Co. D, 127th Field Art.); Fr. J. Pallas, Valparaiso (Co. B, Div. Bat. I); Henry J. Pallat, Wahoo (Co. I, 159th Inf., 40 Div.); Joseph J. Pallat, Wahoo (Rec. Ship Philadelphia); A. Pánek, Shelton; H. H. Pankrátz, Henderson (31st); J. H. Panuška, Omaha (Field Art.); John S. Papež, Albion (Hdq. 30th F. A.); Fr. J. Pařízek, Crete (Field Art.); Fr. Pavlat, Sunol (unassigned); Richard Pavlat, Lodgepole (Imperator); Stan. Pavel, Omaha; Ant. Pavelka, Bladen (Co. D, 314th); John Pavelka, Milligan (Co. 53, Neb.); Vác. Pavelka, Crofton (Medical, 353rd); Fr. Pavlík, Weston; John D. Pavlík, Verdigre (Co. M, 361st); James Pavlík, Weston (S. A. E. F.); Anton Pecha Jr., Omaha (141st Field Art.); Adolph Peček, Comstock (Co. F, 14th Reg.); O. J. Pečetka, Elyria (Co. H, Inf.); Jos. J. Pek, Monowi (Co. 13, 103rd Field Art.); Wm. Pelc, Spencer (C 49, Submarine Chaser); L. G. Pelecký, Omaha (Baloon Service); E. L. Pelikán, Exeter (U. S. S. Minnesota); Albin Peltz, Ulysses (Co. A, 1st Inf.); Jos. Penaz, Ord (Co. B, 314th); Max Pěnkava, Virginia (Co. 31, 163rd Depot Brigade); Anton Perlaska, North Loup (Co. I, 134th Inf.); Adolf Pešek, David City (89th Sanitary Squad); Herb. Pešek, Ravenna (Co. M, 125th); Samuel J. Pešťál, Wahoo (244th Amb. Co.); Tom Pešťál, Weston (244th Amb.); Chas. Peterka, Virginia (Co. K, 43rd Inf.); Rudolph Peterka, Prague (Q. M. C.); Alois Petráček, Friend (Hdq., 355th); F. W. Petrášek, Table Rock (Co. 1, 10th Div.); R. W. Petrášek, Humboldt; Jos. Petříček, Omaha (14th M. G. Batt.); R. Petrželka, Prague (Co. B, 2nd Mach. Gun); Fr. Petz, Howell (Co. 234); Bert. Piska, Bertrand (288th Air Service); Florian Plaček, Humphrey (Co. H, 138th Reg.); Lad. Plaček, Swanton (168th Depot. Brig.); Vinc. Plaček, Prague (Co. H, 58th Inf.); Jas. Plíhal, Table Rock (S. A. T. C.); Anton Ploužek, Crete (Co. B); E. C. Ploužek, Crete (318th Eng.); Fr. H. Pochop, Breslau (7th C. A. C.); Anton Podaný, Clarkson (Co. I, 39th Inf.); Fr. A. Podaný, Clarkson (Co C, 314th Supply Train); Jas. Podaný, Stanton (Co. C, 130th Machine Gun); Steve J. Podaný, Clarkson (Co. C, 314th Inf.); Jerome Pojar, Dodge (Co. C); G. E. Pokorný, Spencer (Navy, Oversea Duty); Stephen Pokorný, Schuyler (Co. 338); Fr. Poláček, Clarkson (Co. 1, C. A. C.); Fr. Poláček, David City; Ed. Polanský, St. Paul; J. F. Polanský, Tecumseh (1st Gas Reg.); N. J. Polenský, Elba (Co. C, 1st G. R.); Rune Polnický, Red Cloud (350th Air Service); Fred Pomajzl, Crete (Co. B, 4th Reg.); Frank Pop Jr., Weston (Hdq. Co., 8th Batt. A. E. F.); Alf. L. Pospíšil, Colon (322nd Hdq. Train and Military Police); Emil Pospíšil, Dorchester (Co. M, 355th); Miles Pospíšil, Swanton (318th Eng.); Lawrence Potadle, Malmo (Aero. Serv.); Julius N. Prai, Prague (Co. D, Rim); Fr. J. Prášek, Crete (Battery A); Anton Pražák, Swanton (Machine Gun Co., 30th Batt.); Fr. Pražák, Swanton (162nd Battery

Co. B); Chas. Prchal, Morse Bluff (Co. D, 109th Eng.); E. J. Prchal, Spencer (Battery C, 149th Field Art.); J. E. Prchal, Howell (Co. D, 109th); L. J. Přenčík, Omaha; Arthur Přibyl, Wymore (Base Hosp.); Fr. Přibyl, Bee (Hdq. 134th Inf.); Geo. Přibyl, Odell (354th 314th Sathain); Jerry W. Procháska, Prague (Co. 60, 163rd Dep. Brig.); Lud. C. Procháska, Prague (Co. A, 314th Amm. Train); Ed. E. Procháska, Prague (Gen. Hosp. No 21); John Prokop, Verdigre (Co. F, 101st); Jos. Prokop, Wilber (Co. M, 1st Eng.); John W. Prokšel, Omaha (U. S. S. Wisconsin); Fr. Proškovec, Bruno (Co. C, 314th Am. M.); John J. Prusha, Omaha (330th Supply Co.); Emil Pšíkal, Dorchester (Co. B, 20th Inf.); Fr. J. Ptáček, Bruno (Co. G, 314th Am. M.); Jos. Punčochář, St. Paul.

Jos. Rašplička, Wilber (Hdq. 136th Inf.); Harry W. Rech, St. Edward (U. S. S. Brooklyn); Jos. Řehoř, Wilber (S. A. T. C.); Jos. Rejzlík, Herman (67 R.); Chas. Řeka, O'Neill (Hdq. 16th Div.); Alois F. Řeřucha, Brainard (Co. A, 101st Inf.); Ed. F. Řežábek, Wilber (Casual Co., 134th); Eman Řežábek, Dorchester (114th); Edward Řezáč, Seward (Co. D, 109th Supply Train); Emil Řezáč, Bee (Co. I, 355th Inf.); Joseph E. Řezáč, Wahoo; Ant. A. Řezáč, Dunning (Co. F, 134th Inf.); Ed. Rezek, Omaha; F. J. Rezný, Wilber (Hdq. 23rd Mach. Gun Batt.); Jos. A. Říha Jr., Omaha (276th M. Police); Robert Říha, Omaha (43rd Inf.); Jos. Roček, Wolbach (Co. B. R. F.); Ant. F. Rohla, Geneva (Co. L, 164th Dept. Brig.); Jos. E. Rolence, Brainard (Battery Co.); J. P. Roubal, Chapman (163rd Depot. Brigade); J. M. Roučka, Omaha (Co. 95); Jos. F. Roza, Omaha (314th, 89th Reg.); Paul Rozmajzl, Omaha (Infantry); J. A. Runa, Omaha; E. E. Růžička, Schuyler (Co. 355th); Otto D. Růžička, Verdel (Co. E, 101st); W. F. Růžička, North Bend (Co. 38); Fr. Ryneš, Omaha (Co. B, 341st Div.); Fr. Ryneš Jr., Schuyler (Co. F, 219th); Jos. V. Ryšavý, Creighton (Co. 158th Marine); Jos. Ryšavý, Burwell (141st Depot Brig.); Oscar Ryšlavý, Beatrice.

Ant. L. Šabatka, Ceresco; Fr. Al. Šabatka, Ceresco (Co. I, 20th Inf.); F. J. Sachal, Touhy (Amm. Train, 27 Div.); Lloyd Samsula, Deweese (Co. E, 17th Eng.); F. J. Sazama, St. Paul (Co. B, 8th Amm. Train); Jerome Scheinost, Creighton (Co. 10, 163rd Depot Brig.); Lewis Scheinost, Creighton (8th Amm. Train); Fred Schleis, Wilber (Co. 12, C. A. C.); Jos. Schmadek, Bradish (Co. M); Fr. Shimek, Omaha; Henry G. Šeba, Dunbar (Co. D, 49th Inf.); Ed. Šebek, Crete (Cavalry); J. F. Šeda, Clarkson (38th Hosp. Train); Edwin Šedivý, Verdigre (61st); Felix Šedivý, Verdigre (972nd Q. M. C.); Anton Sedláček, Dorchester (A. S.); John Sedláček Jr., Lynch (1st Reg. Band); Jos. Sedláček, South Omaha (Co. 13, 137th Inf.); Jos. Sedláček Jr., Schuyler (Co. D, 338th); Jos. Sedláček, Thurston (Co. E, 134th Reg.); Chas. Seidenglanz, Prague (Co. A, 134th Inf.); Louis Sedláček, Gretna (15th Depot Brigade); Ed. Selement, Milligan (C. M. C.); Chas. G. Semrad, Linwood (Co. G, 314th Amm. Train); L. H. Semrad, Abie (Hdq. 355th Inf.); Mike Ševčík, Ord (Co. I, 134th Inf.); Jerry J. Severa, Leigh (259th Med. Dept.); Wm. J. Severa, Pilger (Co. C, 8th Amm. Train); Chas. Shandera, Prague (314th Amm. Train); Ed. Shestak, Omaha (423 M. Sup. Tr.); W. J. Shestak, Wilber; Geo. W. Shestak, Wilber; Fr. Shimerda, Beatrice (Co. C, 350th Inf.); Fr. Shimerda, Wilber; Stanely Shimonek, Wilber; Henry Shusta, Wahoo (Co. A,

8th Amm. Train); F. J. Šibal, Ogalalla (G. H. O.); Carl Sikyta, Crab Orchard (Bat. E, L. Unit. 5th); Ed. J. Šimánek, Dodge (Base Hosp. No. 49); Lumir Šimeček, Wilber; Alb. Šimic, Milligan (C. M. C.); L. W. J. Šimka, Schuyler (Co. 59); Joseph Simondynes, Wahoo (Co. A, 355th Inf.); L. J. Šintek, Elba (U. S. S. Michigan); J. L. Šístek, Ravenna; Jos. J. Skalický, Venus; Adolf Sklenář, Davey (Co. A, 168th Inf.); Fr. Sklenář, Ceresco; Jos. Sklenář, Wahoo (Air Service); Louis J. Sklenář, Abie (Co. 9, 23rd Reg.); M. J. Sklenář, Wilber; A. D. Skočdopole, Ravenna (Supply Co., 136th Inf.); J. B. Skoumal, Omaha; Fr. E. Škrdla, Atkinson (Special Duty); Fred Skřivánek, Milligan (138th Supply); Wm. Sládek, Exeter (Co. C, 56th Inf.); Mat. Sladký, Wahoo; Henry Sláma, Swanton (Co. D, 12th Reg.); Roland E. Sláma, Wahoo (S. A. T. C.); Wm. Sláma, Lincoln (318 Eng.); Albert Šlechta, Verdel; Henry Šlechta, Pishelville; Lad. Šlechta, Niobrara; Wm. Šlegl, Omaha; Robt. Slepička, Tobias (Co. B, 69th); E. W. Šmaha, Ravenna (Q. M. C.); Jerry Šmahrala, Surprise (Co. 9); Ludvík Šmaus, Prague (Co. A, Machine Gun Batt.); Jos. Smetana, Plattsmouth (Navy)ř Fr. Smolík, Comstock (Co. 8, 128th Amb.); Adolph B. Sobotka, Wilber (Marines, 28th C. A. P.); Fr. Sobotka, Valparaiso (Co. I, 28th Inf.); John Sobotka, Inman (U. S. S. Plattsburg); Vladimir Sobotka, Bee (Co. H, 355th Inf.); S. E. Sochor, Dorchester (298th N. S.); Anton Sokol, Hemingford (Co. B, 5th Div.); John L. Sokol, Loup City (Co. 15, M. P.); Jos. F. Sokol, Loup City (Co. D, Guards); Stanley Soukup, Page (Co. E, 3rd Batt., 164th D. B.); Emil Špalka, Spring Ranch (B 314 Supply Train); Joseph Špatz, Plainview (125th Ordnance Dept.); Ed. Spěváček, Ravenna (Q. M. C., G. M. M.); Fr. Špinar, Crete (314th Sanitary Train); Fr. Špinar, Lynch (U. S. S. Puritan); Fr. Špirk, Wilber; Victor M. Špirk, Wilber; Wm. Špirk, Crete (Co. B); Gus Šrámek, South Omaha (Co. Q, 23rd); Joseph Staněk, Garrison (Co. 242, Field Hosp.); Jos. Staněk, Schuyler (Co. 30); Steve Staněk, Lindsay (Co. H, Q. M. C.); Fr. Stanislav, Linwood (Hdq. 355th Inf.); Edward J. Staska, Seward (46th Reg., C. A. C.); Gerald Šťastný, Schuyler; John J. Šťastný, Ulysses (Co. C, 43rd); Ed. J. Štěch, Exeter (42nd Coast Art.); Jerry Stecher, Omaha (Amm. Corps); John Stefan, Omaha (Inf.); F. E. Stejskal, Prague; F. J. Stejskal, Crete (Medical Dept.); Lad. Stejskal, South Omaha (Med. Corps); R. J. Štěpán, Table Rock (Co. 6, 132nd); S. J. Štěpánek, Omaha (M. G. Co., Inf.); Jos. Štěrba, Omaha (27th Inf.); Oldřich E. Štěrba, Omaha (Co. C, 128th Inf.); Ed. Štětina, Exeter (Co. B, 4th Inf.); Ed. Štětina, Bruning (Co. B, 4th Inf.); Walter Štovick, Seward; Emil Strachota, Prentice (392nd Motor Co.); Rud. Štrunc, Bee (Co. G Hdq., Head Batt.); Rud. J. Studnička, Farwell (Co. 24, 78th); Wm. Studnička, Dodge (Co. G, 314th Amm. Train); Oldřich Štulík, Omaha (Heavy Artillery); Chas. Suchan, Howell; Louis Suchan, Howell; Rudolph Suchan, Howell (Co. D); Ant. S. Suchánek, Albion (B. H. M. D.); Leon Suchánek, St. Paul; Jos. Suchdol, Battle Creek (127th Field Art.); Albert Suchý, Tamora (Machine Gun Co.); Jos. Sumovich, Elba (C. P. O.); Jacob G. Svačina, Omaha (Co. 113); A. Švanda, Ravenna (Co. Q, 53 D. B.); Louis Švec, Milligan (Co. 2, F. S.); Fr. Švejda, Crete (Co. F, 16th); Adolph Svoboda, Lawrence (Co. C, D. P. T.); Anton J. Svoboda, Tilden (Bat. A 30, Coast Artillery); Fred Svoboda, Wilber (Co. D, 355th Inf.); Jos. Svoboda, Richland (Co. 4, 6th); Jos. Svoboda, Omaha (127 Field Art.);

Theo. Svoboda, Lawrence (Co. 14, 114th); Wm. F. Svoboda, Lindsay (Hdq., 28th Inf.); Raymond Sýkora, Lawrence (Medical Corps, 35th); Ed. M. Synek, Elyria (Co. K, 362nd); Roy Synovec, Pierce (Co. D, 109th Eng.); Ed. Sysel, Crete (525th A. A. S.).

A. A. Tachovec, North Loup (Co. L, 355th Reg.); Wm. Tachovský. Swanton (Vet. Corps); Edward Tejčka, Lincoln (Co. C); Alb. Tejral Jr., Spencer (Supply Co., 338th Field Art.); Fr. Tejral, University Place (19th Div.); Frank A. Tejral, Valparaiso (Co. M, 355th Inf.); John Tejral, Milford; Fr. Tenopír, Davenport (15th Signa. Corps); Emil Teplý, Leigh (Co. C, 314th Supply Train); Fred Teplý, Gothenburg (Co. K, 355th Inf.); Gabriel J. Tesař, Plainview (5th C. A. C.); J. J. Tesař, Leigh (Co. 81); Lad. Tesař, Omaha; Fr. Tlustoš, Pawnee City (Medical Dept.); Jos. Tlustoš, Wayside (Co. I, 314th Amm. Train); Wm. Tobiška, Crete (Co. M, 355th); Geo. Tomáš, Plainview (Great Lakes); Fred. Tomek, Table Rock (Med. Dept.); Adolph Tomeš, Schuyler (Co. 320); Jerry Tomha, Clarkson (Co. E, 29th Field Art.); Albin Tomšíček, Ansley (Co. 48, Labot. Batt.); Jacob G. Tomšíček, Weston; Frank Tomšík, Winnetoon (37th Co., 10th); Louis Tomšu, Omaha (10th Div.); Alois Totušek, Clarkson (Co. C, 137th); Anton Trávníček, Leigh (Co. B, 59th Inf.); John Třeček, Omaha; Henry E. Třetina, Peru (Unassigned); Jos. Trochta, Virginia (Air Service); Chas. Trouba, Bee (88th Div.); Jos. R. Trubl, St. Paul (Co. F, 134th Inf.); Edward Trutna, Wahoo; Anton Tuma, Cotesfield (Co. K, 252nd Inf.); C. W. Tuma, Omaha (Co. D, 26th U. S. Guards); Fr. A. Tuma, Cotesfield (Co. 13, 148th Mach. Gun); Jos. Tuma, Elba (Co. K, 20th Inf.); J. F. Tuma, Cotesfield (Co. A, 350th Inf.); Raymond Tuma, Elba (U. S. S. Lee); Theo. Tuma, Elba (24th Band); W. E. Tureček, Wayside (A. R. D., 323rd); Thos. L. Tvrdý, Swedeburg; Stanley Tvrz, Wilber (Navy).

Dr. J. L. Úbl, Loup City (Dental Corps); Jos. J. Ulrich, Crete (67th); J. J. Urban, Prague (Co. E, 109th Eng.); J. A. Urban, Prague (Co. B, 229th R.); M. S. Urban, Omaha; John Urbanovský, Brainard (113th D. O.); Jos. Uzel, Omaha (Navy).

Jos. Vacek, Omaha (127th Field Art.); A. F. Vacku, Norfolk (Co. D, 18th); Oldřich Vacovský, Omaha; O. J. Vancina, Omaha (Inf.); Anton Vaněk, Omaha; Chas. Vaněk, David City (Co. K, 4th Neb.); Eman Vaněk, Dorchester (137th Mach. Gun); Chas. Vaníček, Schuyler (Co. 3); Fr. Vaníček, Schuyler (Co. 2); Sigismund Vaníček, Valparaiso (Inf.); A. F. Vašina, Colon; Chas. Vašina, Morse Bluff (Med. Corps); Chas. Vašina, Milligan (Mech. Div.); Otto Vavák, Prague (10th Field Art.); Jaroslav Vávra, Schuyler (Co. B); Lloyd Vávra, Elyria (Co. C, 20th Inf.); Richard Vávra, Crete (Co. B, 23rd Mach. Gun Batt.); Fr. Vavříček, Schuyler (Co. 34); Vác. J. Večera, Verdigre (Co. C); John Vejlupek, Omaha; L. R. Vejraška, Odell (Battery Unit, 89th Div.); Jas. E. Vech, Morse Bluff (Co. 59, 163rd Depot Brig.); Chas. Veleba, Elyria (Co. H, 81st Reg.); Fred J. Veleba, Pleasant Dale (320th Mobile L. Co.); A. Veselý, Ashland (Co. K); Anton Větrovský, Virginia (Co. D, 40th Reg.); Ed. E. Vincík, St. Paul (Co. 8, 355th Inf.); John Vítamvás, Omaha (Infantry); John M. Vítamvás, Silver Creek (Base Hospital No. 90); Ed. Vítek, Clarkson (Co. 5); Harry J. Vlaček, Hooper (Co. D, U. S. M. C., 113 Reg.); Emil Vlasák, Prague (Co. D, S. A. T. C.); Fr. Vlasák, Dorchester (Co. B, 4th); Fr. E. Vlasák,

Prague (Co. C, 222nd Field Signal Batt.); Louis B. Vlasák, Prague; Rudolph Vlasák, Howell (Co. D, 109th); A. J. V. Vlčan, Monowi (Co. A, 355th Inf.); A. E. Vlna, Omaha; J. J. Vobořil, Prague (Co. D, 109th Eng.); Jos. Vodehnal, Clarkson (Co. H, 58th); Ed. Vogeltanz, Ord (Air Service); J. Vonák, Omaha; Fr. F. Vondra, Bee (Co. B, 313th Amm. Train); Wm. E. Vondra, Valparaiso (Inf. 34 Div.); Wm. Vondrášek, Table Rock (Co. B, 355th); Jas. Vopalenský, Morse Bluff (Co. A, 134 Inf.); J. G. Vosek, Madison (Unassigned); Otto Vosika, Swanton (P. M. E., Reg.); Fr. Votruba, Hay Springs (355th); John Votruba, Stanton (Co. B., 134th Inf.); Albín Vraspír, Clarkson (Co. 202, C. A. C. T.); A. E. Vraspír, Bruno (Co. C, Hdq.); Jos. Vrba, Schuyler (109th Eng.); Rudolph Vrzák, Schuyler (Co. 109, Eng.); F. W. Vybíral, Kennard (Electrician).

Fr. J. Wachal, Prague (Co. D, 6th Neb. Inf.); Lee J. Wagner, Prague (Unit B, G. R. S.); Jos. Walla, Omaha (81st Hosp. Corps); Leonard Walla, Morse Bluff (Co. G, 58th Inf.); Clarence Waněk, Loup City (U. S. S. Orizaba); Fr. Waněk, Giltner (Air Service); Frank Waněk Jr., Wilber (6th C. A. C.); John A. Waněk, Giltner (C. R.); Chas. Watzek, Humboldt (Co. A, 24th Mach. Gun Batt.); Chas. J. Wesely, Cedar Bluff (Co. D, 109 Eng.); L. A. Wesely, Cedar Bluff (Ordnance); Fr. J. Wojta, Weston (Hdq.); Jos. F. Wojta, Weston (S. A. E. F.).

M. R. Yirak, Gretna (Air Service).

Louis Zabloudil, Ord (Am. Co., K. I. C. G.); Fr. J. Žáček, Madison (Co. S, 13th Inf.); Peter Žáček, Creston (14th Inf.); Zadina, South Omaha (Co. C, 134th); Chas. J. Žaloudek, Omaha (103rd Amb. Corps); Anton Žalud, Burwell (Co. C, 89th Div.); B. J. Zástěra, Howell; Leo. A. Zavadil, Humphrey (Co. M, 3rd Inf.); Jos. Závodný, Seward (Co. B, 59th); Thos. Závodný, Seward (Med. Detachment 359th); Fr. A. Zedník, Wilber (48th Field Art.); R. Zedník, Wilber; Wm. L. Zedník, Wilber (U. S. S. Zeppelin); Fr. Zelenda, Clarkson (Co. 9, C. A. C.); Boh. T. Zelený, Seward (Co. I, 137th Reg); Jacob Zelený, Omaha (U. S. S. North Dakota); Jas. W. Zelený, Wilber (23rd Battery); Fr. Zemánek, Omaha (16th Inf.); John Zich, Omaha (135th Field Art.); Thos. Zídko, Spencer (Co. Hdq., 58th Inf., 4th Div.); Chas. Žíla, Pierce (Guard); Fr. Zimola, Wahoo (127th F. A.); Chas. E. Žižka, Cedar Bluff (Co. D, 109 Reg. Eng.); Henry Žlab, Stapleton (Co. 19, Hdq. Batt. D. T.); John D. Žlab, Hubbell (Navy); Fr. Zlata, Omaha; Albert Zoubek, Verdel (Co. E, 125th); Jos. Zoubek, Stanton (Auto School); Jos. Zvolánek, Humboldt (Co. E, 109th Eng.); F. Zwonechek, Wilber.

Jas. Forman, Omaha; Roy Hollý, Plattsmouth; Charles Hoffman, Omaha; Cyril Janda, Plattsmouth; John Jiroušek, Plattsmouth; Jos. Panek, Omaha; Edw. Špička, Omaha; Edw. A. Skoumal, Omaha; Jas. Starý, Omaha; Emil Chval, Omaha; Paul Chval, Omaha.

It may be in place to record here also the Czech names of the veterans of the Spanish-American War as listed in Mr. Poole's roster:

Frank J. Baley, Omaha (Co. D, 2nd Nebr.); Henry Fingado, Saunders County; Anton Fisher and Joseph Fisher, Prague; Charles Frohner, Weston (Co. A, 15th Inf.); Wm. Havránek, Milligan (Co. L, 1st

U. S. Inf.); Jos. Hledík, Howell (Co. D,); Rud. Horáček, Chambers (Co. E, 1st Nebr. Reg.); Will Hudec, Saunders County (died in camp); Jos. F. Hulka, Fairbury (Co. A, 3rd Nebr.); Frank Jansa, Saunders County; Stephen Jelínek, Lincoln (11th Inf.); Fr. Jura, Schuyler; Emil Killian, Wahoo; Frank and Joseph Kopáč, both Omaha and both in Co. K, 2nd Nebr.; John Malon, Omaha (Co. I, 2nd Batt.); Thomas Němeček, Saunders County; John Ondrák, Fairmont (Co. H, 1st Volunteers); Otto Otradovský, Schuyler; W. F. Pacal, Wymore (1st Nebr. V. J.); J. Pivonka, Omaha (Co. L, 10th Inf.); E. E. Plaček, Wahoo (1st Nebr.); Bert Polský, Lincoln (Co. A, 3rd Nebr.); A. M. Salák, Schuyler; F. J. Simodynes, Wahoo; Chas. Šmrha, Milligan (Co. G, 1st Volunteers); C. M. Tomandl, Merna (Navy); Anton Urban, Prague (Co. C, 49th Reg.); Chas. Urban, Prague (M. C., 342nd); Anton Veselý, Ashland; F. Walla, Wahoo; Jos. Zpěvák, Omaha (Co. B, 39th Inf.).

No Czech names appear among those of the veterans of the Civil War, although among our pioneers there were probably a dozen or so who had taken part in that conflict. By 1925 they had all passed on. It must be remembered that Czech immigration to this country did not begin until with the late fifties and early sixties and but very few of those who lived here during the Civil War could speak or understand English.

Among those who paid the supreme sacrifice in the World War were the following Czechs:

Killed in Action:

Leo Brinda, Valentine, Co. E, 4 Inf.; Jerry Černy, Gothenburg, 9 Inf.; Rudolph Deml, Omaha, Co. F, 355 Inf.; Albin Folda, Clarkson, Co. M, 355 Inf.; Lewis Franěk, Stanton, Co. C, 128 Inf.; Fr. J. Hájek, Whitman, Co. B, 2 MG, Bn.; James Houska, Milligan, Co. B, 4 Inf.; Ferdinand Jelínek, Ravenna, Co. B, 137 Inf.; Frank B. Koča, Tobias, Co. C, 128 Inf.; James J. Kořínek, Omaha, Co. D, 4 Inf.; Oldřich Krčma, South Omaha, Co. G, 127 Inf.; Frederick Maixner, Bee, Hdq. Co., 7 Inf.; Frank Myslivec, Omaha, Co. E, 355 Inf.; John Ort, Omaha, Co. B, 1st Brigade, Mach. Gun Batt.; Anton J. Rejda, Brainard, Co. K, 125 Inf.; Edward V. Růžička, Pishelville, Co. B, 101 Inf.; Joseph L. Shavlik, Bliss, Co. F, 4 Inf.; Louis J. Šmaus, Prague, 35 Co., 164 Dept. Brig.; James Švec, Milligan, Co. H, 134 Inf.; Anton Tomek Jr., Pierce, Co. B, 58 Inf.; Emil Vítek, Clarkson, Co. C, 4 Inf.

Died of Wounds:

Jacob A. Blatný, Linwood, Co. E, 4 Inf.; Emil Boudar, Omaha, Co. E, 355 Inf.; Paul G. Hurt, Ashton, Hdq. Co., 355 Inf.; Joseph Kačín, Clarkson, Co. M. G., 38 Inf.; Frank J. Mršný, Co. F, 164 Inf.; Ed. Slezák, Tobias, Co. B, 355 Inf.; John Šrůtek, Fullerton, Co. F, 59 Inf.

Died of Disease (Largely Influenza):

Emil Bartoš, Center, Medical Dept. Amb. No. 25; Lewis Červ, Dodge, Co. 6, 4 Inf.; James Chládek (Kladek), Omaha, Co. 3, 4th Mec. Regt.; Robert N. Dohnal, Omaha, M. D. Cas. OTC, Ft. Riley; Adolph A. Drábek, Florence, Sq. E. Post Fld.; Leonard M. Dudek, Campbell, 91 Bln. Co.; James A. Havluj, Sup. Co., 147 F. A.; Miloslav Horák, Howell, 36 Co., 163 Dep. Brig.; Edward R. Janešovský, Elsie, 47 Co.,

161 Dept. Brig.; Matt. A. Jiroušek, Plattsmouth, Co. C, 126 NG, Bn.; George J. Kirchman, Wahoo, Med. Repl. Draft; Frank Klapal, Sargent, Co. C, 355 Inf.; Adolph Kluna, Comstock, 4º Co., 164 Dept. Bg.; Joseph Kobes, Hastings, 453 Eer. Sq. Wash.; Rudolph F. Koukal, Lawrence, Co. G, 355 Inf.; Wm. V. Kovářík, Crete, 28 Co., 164 Dept. Brig.; Joseph F. Kříž, Dodge, Co. D, 109 Eng.; Frank W. Liska, Verdigre, Bat. E, 338 FA; Frank J. Malina, Garland, Hdq. Co., 69 Inf.; Anton Malý, Brainard, Co. B, 336 Inf.; Vincent Mudra, Walnut, Co. D, 364 Inf.; Frank Pallas, Thurston, R. R. and Cons. Serv.; Joseph L. Polák, Valjaraiso, Co. B, 30 MG Bn.; Lewis Prokop, Crete, Co. H, 47 Inf.; August J. Rajský, Madison, Scl. Bakers and Clks.; Joseph F. Severyn, Schuyler, Co. C, 338 MG; George W. Skala, Omaha, Co. C, 341 MG Bn.; John A. Slabý, Red Cloud, 4 Co. 3 Bn. 164 Dept. Brig.; John Slapnička, Omaha, Auto Repl. Draft Sig.; Frank Štěpánek, Dodge, Co. M, 20 Inf.; Joseph J. Štorek, Lindsay, Med. Det., 32 MG Bn.; Chas. F. Šucha, Leigh, Am. Co. 255, Sn. Tn. 14; Frank Tlustoš, Dubois, Co. I, 69 Inf.; Adolph Valla, O'Neil, 47 Co., 161 Dept. Brig.; Anton Vodička, Rushville, 47 Co., 161 Dept. Brig.; Clarence Žabka, Loretto, Med. Dept.

Died of Accident:

John Michal, Table Rock, Sup. Co., 149 Inf.

Drowned:

Chas. Slavík, Omaha, Co. A, 16 Inf.; Joseph Toman, Clarkson, Co. I, 1st Inf.

Martin Svoboda, Dwight, 31 Co., 164 Dept. Brig. died by suicide.

Robert Coufal, Schuyler, Percy Jas. Stanoušek, Osmond, and James Sikyta, Crab Orchard, all in the navy service, died of influenza in the Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Publications

While at the present time the percentage of illiterates in Bohemia is half of one percent, the fact remains that of those who came to our state in the early days but few had more than the most rudimentary schooling. This is but natural, for immigration was drawn from the poorer classes, for which a better livelihood was the main consideration and the law regarding compulsory attendance of school in Bohemia did not become effective until 1869. Besides, under Austrian despotism and caste system, the peasants were repressed in intellectual matters. Many learned to read from Czech newspapers in this country and as far as Nebraska is concerned, the Pokrok Západu, for years the only newspaper here, played an important role in that respect, as well as that of attracting settlers. Mr. Thomas Čapek, in his "Fifty Years of Czech Letters in America", says of Czech papers in this country:

"The influence of newspapers was everywhere deep and of creative tendency. It was the newspapers that taught a neglected people to think independently. It was the newspapers that tried to liberate them from the domination of darkness and fear. Our younger generation can have no idea of the power wielded by Czech printing on immigrants who came between 1860 and 1875. People came by the tens of thousands, they were in need of wise counsellors, selfless leaders. The wide, unsettled, western plains beckoned to experienced farmers; the industries of the eastern cities, impoverished by the Civil War, began to awaken and need artisans and laborers. Who was to ad vise the immigrant? This office, honorable and sometimes replete with ingratitude, fell to the Czech editor. He was the vanguard, around which new settlements sprung. It is not true that newspapers always followed settlers. They did come into existence in some colonies already estab-

lished, but the Pokrok Západu in Omaha always led. Nebraska contains the highest percentage of Czech people of the first generation, of all our agricultural states in the Union, and does anyone think that it comes about purely by accident?'' — Mr. Čapek proceeds further to show how hard and thorny was the path of those early journals and their editors, how they led their people in matters not only practical, but also social and cultural, and how they realized that not only the body but the mind and soul too must be fed, even in pioneer times. In these days, when the majority of that first generation has gone to its eternal rest, it is hard for their successors to appreciate the value of a medium that gave newcomers, in their own language, various information so needed by them, — not only about lands, but about current events, our laws, politics, civic affairs, etc.

The Pokrok Západu holds the record in Nebraska, for it was published unceasingly for fifty-one years. The next is the farm paper Hospodář, now in its thirty-sixth year and as flourishing as ever, for it has a national circulation, many copies being sent to Canada and Bohemia too. Emigration to the middle west ceased when the government and railroad lands were gone and this had a stultifying effect on the foreign-language papers. That is why those restricted to the midwestern territory cannot last. The Hospodář, having a larger scope, can maintain its position for years to come.

Of the many publications listed in this chapter, all but the two just mentioned ceased to struggle after comparatively short careers. This is the fate of many small papers, but in this instance two factors especially played their parts. First, the large Czech dailies in Chicago publish semi-weeklies, using matter from their dailies, so that they can put out a larger paper at nominal cost, thus providing serious competition. The other, a more deadly and insidious factor is that the second and following generations, with but small exceptions, do not read Czech. When we add that of late immigration has

been restricted and probably in the future always will be, it is easy to realize that the days of foreign-language papers in this country are gradually being numbered. At the present time the only other Czech paper published in Nebraska is the weekly Národní Pokrok (National Progress) in Omaha, and it is more than probable that it is the last of its kind. Thirty-two Czech papers have been published in Nebraska, and in less than two generations they have dwindled down to the last but one. That alone tells the story.

1871—POKROK ZÁPADU (PROGRESS OF THE WEST) OMAHA: Founded by Edward Rosewater, who published it until 1877, when John Rosický bought it. For a more detailed account of the beginings of this paper see the Introduction. Editors under Mr. Rosewater: V. L. Vodička, Joseph Michal, Mr. Pražák, Václav Šnajdr, F. B. Zdrůbek, Joseph Novinský and John Rosický. Under Mr. Rosický: V. A. Jung, Thomas Čapek, R. V. Miškovský, J. A. Oliverius, Rev. E. A. Bouška, J. R. Jíčinský, F. J. Kuták, J. V. Mašek, John Černý, J. K. Mazač, Joseph Buňata. After August, 1900, when Mr. Rosický sold the paper to the Pokrok Publishing Company: F. J. Přibyl, Otakar Charvát, A. J. Havránek, Fr. Hais, J. J. Řežábek, Emil Tuma and Mrs. V. Bureš. From August 1, 1871, the paper bore the name Pokrok Západu, from 1872 to 1873 Pokrok Západu a Amerikán (Progress of The West And American), the paper Amerikán having been bought from the Slavie, Racine, Wisconsin, and consolidated with it) then it was changed to Pokrok Západu again. From 1877 to August, 1889, it was published by John Rosický, at which latter date he established the Pokrok Západu Printing Company, which in 1899 was changed to the National Printing Company, that is in name only. In 1892 the paper was made a semi-weekly. When the Pokrok Publishing Company (R. V. Miškovský, President, Václav Bureš Secretary, and Charles Steiger, Treasurer) took it over in August, 1900, within a short time it began to publish local editions for various Bohemian localities, as follow: Creteský Pokrok (Crete Progress) and Wilberský Týdenník (Wilber Weekly) for Saline County; Dakotský Pokrok (Dakota Progress) for South Dakota; Iowský Pokrok (Iowa Progress) for Iowa; Kansaský Pokrok (Kansas Progress) for Kansas and Minnesotský Pokrok (Minnesota Progress) for Minnesota. After 1902 Mr. Václav Bureš directed the affairs of the company, later acquiring sole ownership, and on November 1, 1915 made it into a daily. In 1920 he sold it to the weekly Hlasatel of Chicago, Illinois, and thus passed out, after fifty-one years of continuous existence, the first and for a few years the only Bohemian paper in Nebraska.

1874—SALINE COUNTY POST, CRETE—Hoyt and Wells, publishers, printed one page in Bohemian, Čeněk Duras was editor and compositor.

July 1877—BESEDA (THE CIRCLE), WILBER –A weekly. Editor and publisher Joseph Novinský. Thirteen issues were published.

August 1880—VĚSTNÍK BRATRSKÝ (FRATERNAL HERALD), OMAHA—A monthly devoted to the interests of the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society. Editor John Rosický. Suspended in January, 1881.

October 1884—KVĚTY AMERICKÉ (AMERICAN BLOSSOMS), OMAHA—Illustrated monthly literary magazine containing, aside from the serial novel, only original contributions from Czech-American literati. The only magazine of its kind ever published in this country. An attempt, on the part of John Rosický, to foster belles-letters and literary talent here. The following contributed original prose: Hugo Chotek, Jos. Dinebier, J. V. Čapek, Thomas Čapek, Bartoš Bittner, John Rosický, Fr. St. Hulicius. The following contributed poetry, some of it very good: Jos. Dinebier, Vác. Šnajdr, F. K. Ringsmuth (pseudonym Jaromil Květenský), Sláv Beránek, J. R. Jíčinský, Rev. (now Monsignore) Klein. V. A. Jung contributed original verse and very good translations from Longfellow and Tennyson. At the end of the third volume (the second and third were under the editorship of Jaromil Květenský) the publication was suspended, largely through lack of advertising patronage and the bi-weekly Knihovna Americká (American Library) published instead.

July 1885—NOVÁ VLAST (NEW HOMELAND), NORTH BEND—A weekly newspaper. Anton K. Walla, V. Virka, F. Mizera and J. Menšík, publishers. F. H. Jeřábek, editor. In July, 1886, the paper was moved to Omaha, where John A. Hospodský became owner and editor. In October of that year its name was changed to Národní Listy (National News).

October 1886—NÁRODNÍ LISTY (NATIONAL NEWS), OMAHA—A weekly. Frank J. Kašpar, publisher. John A. Hospodský, editor. Suspended in May, 1888.

March 1887—NOVÁ DOBA (NEW ERA), SCHUYLER—A weekly newspaper, published by The Literary Society, Schuyler, Nebraska. Hugo Chotek and F. K. Ringsmuth, editors. In 1892 a company formed by Joseph Šmatlan, J. A. Fiala, John Pekař, F. K. Ringsmuth and J. K. Sinkule took it over, but publication was suspended June 7, 1892.

October 1887—KNIHOVNA AMERICKÁ (AMERICAN LIBRARY), OMAHA—A bi-weekly, containing only novels, in book-page size, so that the installments could be bound into a book. John Rosický, publisher From 1887 to 1900, when publication was suspended, the following novels and stories had been published in it:

1887—DAUGHTERS OF THE SOUTH—By Xavier de Montepin. WALLENSTEIN—By Karel Herloš. GYPSY TALES—By J. L. Hrdina.

1888—A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD CAPTAIN—By Jules Verne. WALLENSTEIN—By Karel Herloš, adapted by Dr. J. B. Pichl.

1889—COUNT OF MONTE CHRISTO—By Alexander Dumas. THE CRIME IN THE BESSIERES BOULEVARD—By Adolph Belot.

1890—THE HERITAGE OF THE AZTECS—By P. Duplessis. VIT AND ANIČKA—By Ladislav Hejtmánek. The IRONY OF LIFE—By Ladislav Hejtmánek. THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD—By Alexander Dumas. MOUNTAIN WHITE—MOUNTAIN CURSED—By Jacob Arbes. A SONG OF FREEDOM—By Jacob Arbes.

1891—THE FATAL KISS—By Julia Janeček. THE FLUTE PLAYER—By Julia Janeček. AFTER MIDNIGHT—By Václav Vlček.

1892—THE WANDERING JEW—By Eugene Sue. FOR ANOTHER'S SIN—By J. L. Hrdina. ELBA AND WATERLOO—By Ferdinand Stolle. THE MYSTERY OF THE CRIME IN PORTER SQUARE By B. C. Farjeon. FROM THE AIRY BATH—By Ladislav Hejtmánek THE BLUE SKY—By Ladislav Hejtmánek.

1893—FOR A FATHER'S HONOR—By Xavier de Montepin. A RAILWAY NOCTURNO—By Irma Geisslová.

1894—WHITE MOUNTAIN—By L. Rellstab.

1895—A FATAL PATH—By E. Gaborieau.

1896—IN FOREIGN SERVICE—By Alois Jirásek.

1897—IN THE DAWN OF THE CHALICE—By Václav Beneš-Třebízský. IN THE LUSTRE OF THE CHALICE—By Václav Beneš-Třebízský.

1898—NEW MYSTERIES OF PARIS—By Ponson du Terrail. Six volumes.

1900—AMID THE CURRENTS—By Alois Jirásek. Three volumes.

March 1891—HOSPODÁŘ (THE FARMER), OMAHA—An agricultural paper, Pokrok Západu Publishing Company, publishers.

National Printing Company building

(Later name changed to National Printing Company). Editors under direction of Mr. John Rosický; L. W. Dongres, Joseph Černý, Jaroslav Hančík, John Janák, J. E. Kroupa. After Mr. Rosický's death in 1910: J. E. Kroupa, Rose Rosický, John Janák, Anton Piskač and Joseph Březáček, the present editor. During the first two years it was

published as a monthly, after that as a bi-weekly, until 1920, when it was changed to a semi-monthly. At time of writing it is still a very thriving and influential paper, reaching Czechs all over the United States and Canada and many hundreds copies are sent to Bohemia. It disseminates information about American ways of farming that many could get in no other way.

September 1891—PŘÍTEL LIDU (THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND), WAHOO—Moved to Wilber in 1893. A populist weekly. John A. Hospodský, publisher and editor. In 1915 it was sold to the daily Hlasatel, Chicago, Illinois.

January 1892—NOVÉ DOBY LISTY SVÁTEČNÍ (SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT TO NEW ERA), SCHUYLER—A supplement to the weekly Nová Doba, containing novels. Editor and publisher F. K. Ringsmuth. Suspended in 1892, at the time of suspension of the weekly.

June 1892—NOVINY (NEWS), WILBER—A weekly newspaper. Hanzelín Bros., publishers and editors. Suspended during the first year.

August 1892—KOTVA (THE ANCHOR), SCHUYLER—A weekly newspaper. Příborský and Co., publishers. J. Em. Kroupa, editor. Suspended December 13, 1893.

September 1892—THE BOHEMIAN VOICE (IN ENGLISH), OMAHA—The organ of the Czech-Americans in the United States. Bohemian-American National Alliance, publishers. Thomas Čapek and later J. J. Král, editors. Suspended November, 1894.

July 1893—WILBERSKÉ LISTY (WILBER NEWS), WILBER—A weekly newspaper. Publisher F. J. Hanzelín. Editor Václav Fuchs. In September, 1894, merged with the Dělnické Listy of Omaha.

November 1893—SVIT (THE GLEAM), SCHUYLER—A weekly newspaper. J. Příborský and F. K. Ringsmuth, publishers. F. K. Ringsmuth, editor. In 1894 moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, suspended there in 1902.

May 1894—DĚLNICKÉ LISTY (LABOR NEWS), OMAHA—A weekly newspaper. Bohemian Typographical Union No. 21, publishers. J. F. Přibyl, L. W. Dongres and J. Em. Kroupa, editors. In July, 1898, bought by S. L. Kostoryz, who changed it to Osvěta.

January 1898—BRATRSKÝ VĚSTNÍK (FRATERNAL HERALD), OMAHA—A monthly organ of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, publisher. John Rosický, editor. After his death in 1910 F. J. Kuták and later Stanley Šerpán, editors. In January, 1913, it was moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as to publishing, but Mr. Šerpán is still editor, in Omaha.

1898—OSVĚTA (ENLIGHTENMENT), OMAHA—A semi-weekly newspaper, later changed to a daily, being **the first Czech daily in Nebraska.** Bohemian-American Newspaper Union, publishers. S. L. Kostoryz and later F. J. Kuták, editors. Kostoryz not only established the first Czech daily in Nebraska, but was the first to put into practice publishing editions for Czech localities in the state. He published the Wilberské Listy (Wilber News) for Saline County, Český Obzor (Bohemian Horizon) for Colfax County. In 1903 the paper was merged with the Květy Americké II, and the name of Osvěta Americká

(American Enlightenment) given it. At that time too it was a weekly again.

November 1900—KVĚTY AMERICKÉ II (AMERICAN BLOSSOMS II,) OMAHA—An illustrated literary weekly, published by the National Printing Company. Joseph Valášek (pseudonym Sigma) editor. In 1903 it was merged with the Osvěta and called Osvěta Americká, a weekly.

January 1901—ZLATÁ HVĚZDA (THE GOLDEN STAR), SCHUYLER—A monthly magazine for children. F. H. Svoboda, publisher and editor. In 1902 it was changed to a semi-monthly. Suspended in April, 1903.

December 1902—ZÁBAVNÉ LISTY (DIVERTISEMENT), OMAHA—A weekly of the daily Osvěta. Suspended when that paper was merged with the Květy Americké II.

August 1903—OSVĚTA AMERICKÁ (AMERICAN ENLIGHTENMENT), OMAHA—An illustrated weekly newspaper. National Printing Company, publisher. F. J. Kuták, Alois Janda, Václav Fuks, John

Říha Printing Company building, where the weekly Národní Pokrok is published.

Janák, J. F. Práchenský, editors. Changed to Květy Americké III in September, 1916.

September 1903—VLASŤ (HOMELAND), OMAHA—A Catholic weekly newspaper. Joseph M. Rouček, publisher and editor. Suspended in third volume.

December 1904—DOMÁCÍ NOVINY (LOCAL NEWS), CLARKSON—A weekly newspaper. Anton Odvárka, publisher and editor. In 1910 it was taken over by his sons Anton Jr. and Otto, who sold it to the Národní Pokrok in March, 1924. During the period Odvárka Broth-

ers published it, they also published a weekly Ozvěna Západu (Echo Of The West), containing matter from Local News, but adapted for other localities. They now publish an English-language paper, the weekly The Colfax County Press, established in August, 1914.

January 1908—KOMENSKÝ (COMENIUS), LINCOLN—A monthly magazine, the organ of the Komenský Educational Clubs, publishers. Prof. Šárka M. Hrbková, editor-in-chief, Ferdinand L. Musil and L. H. Straka, associates. Later Ferdinand L. Musil and Prof. C. Knížek, editors. Suspended December, 1918.

January 1910—ŽIVOT (LIFE), CRETE—A Protestant monthly. G. W. Ishan, Rev. K. J. Sládek and John Drahovzal, publishers. Rev. K. J. Sládek, editor. In 1918 Rev. Sládek moved it to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

May 1910—ČESKO-AMERICKÝ VENKOV (BOHEMIAN-AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE), OMAHA—An agricultural monthly. Pokrok Publishing Company, publishers, John Janák, L. W. Dongres, J. J. Řezábek, Bohumil Strádal, J. Em. Kroupa and J. V. Klabouch, editors. In 1915 it was changed to a bi-monthly and discontinued in 1917.

Spring of 1910—ZVON (THE BELL), OMAHA—A monthly literary magazine. Nebraska Printing Company, publisher. Otakar Charvat, editor. Eight or nine numbers were published, suspended in fall of the same year.

October 14, 1911—NOVÁ DOBA (NEW ERA), OMAHA—A weekly newspaper. Bohemian-American Publishing Company, publishers. Organizers thereof. Otakar Charvat, F. J. Kuták, J. L. Padrnos, M. F. Tetiva, J. K. Sinkule, E. E. Plaček, John Franěk, Joseph Fiala, F. W. Bartoš, Frank Jerman, J. C. Vána. Published to 1914 on the South Side (South Omaha) in that year moved and changed to a semi-weekly, and Jos. L. Padrnos became publisher. F. J. Kuták, Otakar Charvat, J. L. Padrnos, Joseph Matula, J. F. Práchenský, editors. Suspended December 31, 1918.

February 1913—DRŮBEŽNICKÉ LISTY (POULTRY JOURNAL), BENSON (A suburb of Omaha)—Monthly poultry magazine. Editor and publisher Anton K. Bačkora. In 1917 moved to Omaha and published by the Co-operative Printing Company, Anton K. Bačkora, editor. In 1918 moved to Chicago by John Janák, who became publisher and editor, but shortly thereafter was suspended.

1916—KVĚTY AMERICKÉ III (AMERICAN BLOSSOMS III), OMAHA—Illustrated bi-monthly magazine during 1916 and 1917, changed to a weekly in the third volume. National Printing Company, publishers, J. Em. Kroupa, editor. Suspended June 4, 1919.

1921—NÁRODNÍ POKROK (NATIONAL PROGRESS), OMAHA—A weekly newspaper. Říha Printing Company, publisher. Otakar Charvat, editor.

The Pokrok Západu and Národní Listy were Republican papers, Přítel Lidu Populist, the rest were Democrat or Independent, largely the former.

Books, Brochures, Pamphlets, Etc.

1873—OMAHA—Do You Speak English? A new English grammar. (Nová anglická mluvnice). Published by Čeněk Duras.

OMAHA—Bohemian-English Grammar, Volume I (Česko-Anglická mluvnice díl I). Purchased by Aug. Geringer, Chicago, Ill., who published vol. II and bound both in one book and sold it.

OMAHA—A Handbook of Union Pacific Railroad Company Lands in Nebraska, with Maps. (Příruční knížka o pozemcích dráhy Union Pacific ve státu Nebrasce, s mapami). Pokrok Západu, printer.

OMAHA—The Geneology of God. (Rodopis Boha—Matice Svobody I). F. B. Zdrůbek, author and publisher.

1874—OMAHA—The Constitution of the United States. (Ústava Spojených Států). F. B. Zdrůbek (editor of Pokrok Západu) translator and publisher.

OMAHA—Origin of the World. (Jak povstal svět—Matice Svobody II). F. B. Zdrůbek, author and publisher.

OMAHA—Evolution of Right. (Vývoj práva, aneb co je hřích a co není—Matice Svobody III). F. B. Zdrůbek, author and publisher.

OMAHA—The Youth of Jesus. (Mládí Ježíšovo—Matice Svobody IV). F. B. Zdrůbek, author and publisher.

1875—OMAHA—Description of Nebraska and Burlington & Missouri Lands in Nebraska. (Popis Nebrasky a pozemků dráhy Burlington-Missouri v Nebrasce). Pokrok Západu, printer.

OMAHA—Message of Gov. Robert W. Furnas. (Poselství guv. Robt. W. Furnase). Edward Rosewater, printer.

OMAHA—A Catechism of the Scotch Presbyterian Church. (Katechismus škotské presbyteriánské církve). Scotch Presbyterian Church, publisher. Pokrok Západu, printer.

1877—OMAHA—Description of Nebraska and Union Pacific Lands. (Popis Nebrasky a pozemků dráhy Union Pacific). Pokrok Západu, printer.

1878—OMAHA—Message of Gov. Silas A. Garber. (Poselství guv. Silas A. Garbera). Pokrok Západu, printer.

1882—OMAHA—Jan Hus. An historical novel by Karel Herloš. Reprint by Pokrok Západu.

OMAHA—Jan Žižka. An historical novel by same author. Reprint by Pokrok Západu.

1883—OMAHA—The Last Taborite. (Poslední Táborita). An historical novel by Karel Herloš. Reprint by Pokrok Západu.

1885—OMAHA—Nebraska School Laws. (Zákony školní v Nebrasce). John Rosický, translator. Pokrok Západu, publisher. The same, amended, were published again in 1896 and 1903 by the National Printing Company.

1889—OMAHA—Monuments of Čech Immigration to America. (Památky českých emigrantů v Americe). Thomáš Čapek, author. Pokrok Západu, publisher. Second edition printed in 1907.

SCHUYLER—The Black Shadow of Love. (Černý stín lásky). F. K. Ringsmuth, publisher and author.

1890—OMAHA—The Královdvorský and Zelenohorský Manuscripts. (Rukopisy královdvorský a zelenohorský). A lecture by J. A. Oliverius,

about the manuscripts and the poems themselves. Pokrok Západu, publisher.

1893—OMAHA—The Blacksmith of Lešetía. (Lešetínský kovář). A poem by Svatopluk Čech, confiscated by the Austrian government for its patriotic tone. Reprint by Pokrok Západu Printing Co.

1894—A Small Catechism (Presbyterian). Compiled by Rev. John Pípal. Printed by Pokrok Západu Printing Co.

1896—Bohemians and Their Struggle for Autonomy. (Čechové a jejich zápas o samosprávu). Pokrok Západu, publisher. L. J. Palda, author.

Presbyterian Songs. (Písně evangelické). Rev. John Rundus, compiler. Presbyterian Board, publisher. Volume II published in 1898. Rev. Rundus lived in Crete, Nebraska, at the time.

1897—WILBER—Chodové, a Play. John A. Hospodský, publisher. Joseph Dvořák, adapter. This play was given in Wilber and Omaha, Nebraska, Chicago, Illinois, and Prague, Bohemia.

1900—OMAHA—Horse Diseases. (Nemoci koňské). National Printing Company, publishers. Dr. C. H. Breuer, author.

1902—OMAHA—Father Kneipp's Water Cure. (Kneippovo léčení). Reprint from translation by J. Ježek, Bohemia. National Printing Company, publishers.

OMAHA—National Home Cook Book. (Národní Domácí Kuchařka). National Printing Company, publishers. Mary Rosický (wife of John Rosický) author. Sixth edition printed in 1925.

OMAHA—A Book of Toasts. (Kniha přípitků). National Printing Company, publisher. Alois Janda, compiler.

OMAHA—Meditations on a New Religion. (Myšlénky o novém náboženství). National Printing Company, publisher. L. J. Palda, author.

OMAHA—National Bohemian-American Song Book. (Zpěvník národní česko-americký). National Printing Company, publisher. Alois Janda, compiler. A smaller edition published in 1903.

1904—OMAHA—National Declamation Book. (Besedník národní a deklamátor Českoamerický). National Printing Company, publisher. Alois Janda, compiler. A smaller edition published in 1903.

1906—OMAHA—Conditions in America. (Jak je v Americe). National Printing Company, publisher. John Rosický, author.

OMAHA—Etchings and Stories. (Kresby a povídky). Otakar Charvat, publisher and author.

1907—OMAHA—Vanished Roads. (Ztracené cesty). Otakar Charvat, publisher and author.

OMAHA—A Collection of National and Patriotic Songs. (Sbírka písní národních a vlasteneckých). Music for piano, and text. Second edition. National Printing Company, publisher.

1908—OMAHA—Modern Poultry Keeping. (Drůbežnictví nové doby). National Printing Company, publisher. F. X. Bašta, author.

OMAHA—Home Treatment of the Sick. (Domácí léčení). National Printing Company, publisher. Dr. C. H. Breuer, author.

OMAHA—Canning and Preserving Fruit. (Nakládání a preservování ovoce). National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, translator. Another edition printed in 1923 under the title of **How to Make Use of Fruit** (Zužitkování ovoce).

1909—OMAHA—Several Important Laws—Immigration Law of February 20, 1907—Naturalization Law of June 29, 1906—Loss of Property of March 2, 1907. (Několik důležitých zákonů—Přistěhovalecký z 20. února 1907—Naturalizační z 29. června 1906—O ztrátě majetku z 2. března 1907). National Printing Company, publisher. Dr. J. E. Salaba-Vojan, translator.

OMAHA—Questions and Answers Relating to Irrigation Law. (Otázky a odpovědi vztahující se na zákon o zavodňování). National Printing Company, publisher. J. E. Kroupa, translator and adapter.

OMAHA—The Merchant and Poet. (Kupec a básník). A play. National Printing Company, publisher. Longin Folda, author.

OMAHA—In the Mists. (V mlhách). A novel. Bohemian-American Publishing Co., publisher. Jan Harris Zachar (V. Miniberger) author.

OMAHA—Canning Vegetables at Home. (Domácí zavařování zelenin). National Printing Company, publisher. J. Em. Kroupa, translator and adapter.

OMAHA—Father Vojtěch. (Páter Vojtěch). Reprint of a novel by Jan Klecanda. Pokrok Publishing Company, publisher.

OMAHA—On the Threshold of a New World. (Na prahu nového světa). Pokrok Publishing Company, publisher. V. A. Jung, author.

1910—St. Anthony of Padua. (Svatý Antonius Paduánský). A versified humorous account. National Printing Company, publisher. J. V. Čapek, translator, Busch, author.

1911—OMAHA—Canning and Drying Vegetables. (Zužitkování zelenin). National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, translator and adapter. (Second edition printed in 1918.)

1912—OMAHA—Practical American Bee-Keeper. (Practický americký včelař). National Printing Company, publisher, Anton Kašpar and J. Em. Kroupa, authors. Second edition in 1929, Anton Kašpar, author.

1913—OMAHA—The Farmer's Practical Guide. (Farmářův praktický rádce). National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, author.

OMAHA—Herb Book. (Herbář). National Printing Company, publisher. J. Em. Kroupa and Emil Čermák, authors. Second edition, 1922.

OMAHA—Failure. (Úpadek). Reprint of a novel by Bohumil Brodský. Nová Doba Publishing Company, publisher.

OMAHA—Patriots in Oblivion. (Zapadlí vlastenci). Reprint of novel by Karel V. Rais. Nová Doba Publishing Co., publishers.

1914—OMAHA—Poultry Diseases. (Choroby drůbeže). National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, translator and adapter. Second edition, 1921.

1914—OMAHA—Ancient Bohemian Legends. (Staré pověsti české). Reprint from book by Alois Jirásek. Nová Doba Publishing Company.

1915—OMAHA—Bohemian-American Cook Book. An English translation of the National Home Cook Book. National Printing Company, publisher. Rose Rosický, daughter of the author, translator. Second edition printed in 1925.

OMAHA—The New Settler. (Nový osadník). A guide for settlers in timbered countries. National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, translator and adapter.

OMAHA—Economical Use of Meat in the Home. (Hospodárné zužitkování masa v domácnosti). Translated from Farmers' Bulletin 391, by Rose Rosický. National Printing Company, publisher.

OMAHA—The Last Trial and At the Deanery. (Poslední soud a Na děkanství). Reprint from novels by J. S. Baar. Nová Doba Publishing Company, publisher.

OMAHA—Almanac Nová Doba. Compiled by J. L. Padrnos, published by Nová Doba Publishing Company. Also for 1916 and 1917.

1916—OMAHA—Handbook on Orcharding. (Sadařství a štěpařství). National Printing Company, publishers. John Janák, author. Second edition in 1929.

OMAHA—Butchering and Smoking Meat on the Farm. (Řeznictví a uzenářství na farmě). National Printing Company, publisher, John Janák, translator and adapter. Second edition printed in 1920.

OMAHA—Rabbit Keeping. (Králíkářství). National Printing Company, publisher. Anton Piskač, author.

OMAHA—Almanac Pioneer. (Kalendář Pionýr). National Printing Company, publisher. Rose Rosický, compiler. Published also for 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921, same compiler and publisher.

OMAHA—The Grandmother. (Babička). Reprint of the story of Bohemian life by Božena Němcová. National Printing Company, publisher. Second edition printed in 1918.

OMAHA—National Legends. (Národní pověsti). Reprint from book by Karel Jar. Erben. Nová Doba Publishing Company, publisher.

1917—OMAHA—Stock Raising. (Chov dobytka). National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, author.

OMAHA—Manufacture of Alcohol. (Výroba líhu). National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, translator and adapter.

OMAHA—Diseases of Cattle, Hogs, Sheep. (Zvěrolékař). National Printing Company, publisher. Dr. R. Heller, author.

OMAHA—Conversations Between a Careful and Careless Farmer. (Dbal a Nedbal). Reprinted from articles by Vojta Chládek, in the Hospodář. National Printing Company, publisher.

OMAHA—Cement Work on the Farm. (Cement a beton na farmě). National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, translator and adapter.

1918—OMAHA—Practical Hints for the Household. (Sbírka předpisů a rad pro domácnost). National Printing Company, publisher. Rose Rosický, compiler.

OMAHA—American Poultry Keeping. (Americké drůbežnictví). National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, translator and adapter.

OMAHA—Small Fruits. (Drobné ovoce a jeho pěstování). National Printing Company, publisher. K. O. Horák (J. Em. Kroupa) author.

OMAHA—Economical Cook Book. (Úsporná kuchařka). National Printing Company, publisher. Rose Rosický, compiler.

1919—OMAHA—Cake, Cookie and Confectionery Cook Book. (Cukrář a perníkář). National Printing Company, publisher. Rose Rosický, compiler. Second edition printed in 1924. Published in English in 1928.

OMAHA—Information about Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat. (Poučné pojednání o očích, uších, nose a hrtanu). Dr. J. J. Warta, author and publisher.

OMAHA—Hide Tanning. (Vydělávání kůží). National Printing Company, publisher. John Janák, translator and adapter. Second edition, 1929.

1920—OMAHA—Fourth Edition of Recipes for Beverages, Syrups, Vinegars and Ice Cream. (Domácí příprava ovocných nápojů, limonád, sladu, syrobů, octů a zmrzlin). Record lost on first edition. National Printing Company, publisher. Rose Rosický, compiler.

OMAHA—Vegetable Gardening. (Domácí zelinářství). National Printing Company, publisher. J. Em. Kroupa, author.

1921—OMAHA—History of the United States. (Dějepis Spojených Států). National Printing Company, publisher. Translated by Rose Rosický from book written by S. E. Forman.

OMAHA—Useful and Practical Contrivances for the Farm. (Užitečná a praktická zařízení na farmě. National Printing Company, publisher. Rose Rosický, compiler.

1922—Story of My Life (Z mého života). Autobiography of Joseph Miller (Nedbal). National Printing Company, publisher. Joseph Miller, author.

The books written by Catholic priests in our state are not listed here, because they were published outside of Nebraska. They are:

"On American Soil" (poems), John Vránek.

"From the Prairie" (poems), "Bohemian John" (poems), "History of the Bohemian Catholic Parish of St. Václav in Dodge County" and "The Antiquity of Man in America", by John Stephen Brož.

A translation of Dr. May's novel, "In the Pacific Ocean," by Alois J. Klein.

List of Czechs Who Have Lived in Nebraska and in One Way or Another, in Varying Degree, Have Been Active in Literary or Newspaper Work:

Bělohlavý, Mrs. Marie Folk, born in Chotiná, County of Plzeň, October 25, 1871, came with parents to Kansas in 1883. In 1891 they moved to Oklahoma and in 1908

Miss Folk married Václav Bělohlavý. Now living in Plattsmouth. Has written articles for the Květy Americké II, and Hospodář and many stories and articles for the almanac Amerikán, published in Chicago, Illinois.

Marie Folk-Bělohlavý

Breuer, Dr. C. H. A physician, born March 10, 1866, in Hemerna, near Malešov, Bohemia. Came with parents in 1876 to New Prague, Minnesota. At first he worked on the farm, then on newspapers in Chicago and Omaha, in which latter place he graduated in medicine and began practice. For several years practiced in Texas, now lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. Has written many articles on medical subjects for various papers, conducts the Health Column in the Hospodář and has written three books: Home Treatment of the Sick and Horse Diseases (both published in Omaha), and The Science of Health, published in Chicago.

During the World War (1914—1918) Dr. Breuer became a member of the Nebraska Home Guards, organized when the state militia was sent out of the state. Governor Keith Neville appointed him chief physician with the title of captain. When in the spring of 1918 agitation tending to help free Bohemia developed, Dr. Breuer obtained leave from Gov. Neville to organize Czech companies of the Nebraska Home Guards and allowed them to use the Czech language, which was a marked concession, inasmuch as during that time there was great distaste for anything but the English language. These Czech companies were allowed to recruit legionnaires for the allied armies, among those who could not enter the American army and 17 such enlisted. A company was formed in Wilber with Alois Slepička as captain, sworn in by Gen. Clapp. Companies in Crete, Schuyler, Wahoo and elsewhere were being formed when the war closed and there was no necessity for further work. Dr.

Dr. C. H. Breuer

Breuer's sons, Miles and Roland, also physicians, and his daughter, Mrs. Libbie B. Scholten, have written and translated from Czech, prose and poetry.

Brož, Rev. John St. See "Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction."

Buňata, Joseph. The oldest Czech editor now living in the United States. Born November 19, 1846, in Křesetice near Kutná Hora, Bohemia, and came to this country in 1870, to New York. He has divided his time between working on newspapers, most of which had a precarious existence, and his trade of cigar making, to which he had to take recourse between-times, to make a living. Now retired, living with his married daughters alternately, in Ennis, Texas, or Palm Beach, Florida. Became editor of the Dělnické Listy in New York in 1877, of the Slovan in La Grange, Texas, in 1888 (the first Czech paper in that state), in 1898 of the New Yorské Listy in New York, in 1899 of the Pokrok Západu in Omaha, later of the Pravda in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the Svornost in Chicago, Ill. From Chicago he moved to Texas, after the death of his wife. Contributes articles to various papers.

Čapek, Thomas. Our most distinguished Czech-American writer. President of the Bank of Europe in New York. Born in Chrašťovice, Strakonice, Bohemia, December 6, 1861. Came to this country in summer of 1879. In 1883 became editor of the Pokrok Západu in Omaha and in the fall of 1886 entered Ann Arbor, to study law. In 1889 studied in Columbia, New York, and after graduating practiced law in Omaha. In 1890—1891 was a member of the Nebraska legislature, d e m o c r a t. In 1894 married Miss Anna Vostrovský of San José, California, and began to practice law in New York. In 1910 with four compatriots established

Thomas Čapek

the Bank of Europe, of which he was vice-president, since 1912 president. Author of the following books in English: Bohemia, past and present; Austria Hungary and the Slavonians; The Slovaks in Hungary (1906); Bohemia under Hapsburg Misrule (1915); Bohemian (Čech) Bibliography (in collaboration with his wife, Anna V., 1918); The Čechs (Bohemians) in America (1920); The Czechs and Slovaks in American Banking (in collaboration with his son Thomas Jr., 1920); The Čech Community in New York (1921). In Czech: Památky českých emigrantů v Americe, (Monuments of Czech emigrants in America (first edition, 1889, second, 1907); Padesát let českého tisku v Americe (Fifty years of Czech letters in America, 1911); Jan Vratislav Čapek (his brother's biography); Z New Yorku do Prahy a zpět (From New York to Prague and return), and Naše Amerika (Our America, 1926). He edited the Bohemian Voice in Omaha, 1892—1894 and was on the editorial staff of the Pokrok Západu in the early eighties.

Charvat, Otakar. Born in Pelhřímov, Bohemia, in 1887, came to this country in 1905. Editor of St. Louisské Listy in St. Louis, Mo.; of Český Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In 1906 came to Omaha, as editor of Pokrok Západu, and has lived there since. Published a literary monthly Zvon, containing matter written by himself, and published two volumes of stories, of which he is author. Was editor also of the Nová Doba, Omaha, and now of the Národní Pokrok, Omaha.

Otakar Charvat

Chládek, Vojta, whose biography appears in the history of Box Butte County. Contributed articles to the Hospodář, the most noteworthy being in the form of a dialogue between a careful and a careless farmer, which were published later in book form.

Chotek, Hugo. Born November 8, 1851, in Jindřichův Hradec, Bohemia (where his father was professor in the gymnasia), of a family belonging, on his father's side, to the nobility. From his grandfather's time the title was not used, owing to reduced circumstances, which prevented maintenance of proper social position. He came to this country in 1876. In Nebraska he was editor of the Nová Doba in Schuyler. Worked on papers in New York, N. Y., La Grange, Texas, Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland. A very prolific writer and translator of stories and articles, most of which were published in the almanac Amerikán, and Domácnost of Milwaukee. In Cleveland he gave up his literary pursuits and became clerk of the Equalization Board. While living there he wrote a history of the Czechs in Cleveland. Died there May 9, 1911.

Joseph Dinebier

Dinebier, Joseph. Born in Libeň, near Praha, Bohemia, in 1856. Came to this country in 1878 and worked as compositor, first in New York City, then in Omaha. Wrote many poems and some prose for the Květy Americké I. His poems treat mainly of nature and romantic love. For several years he was a greatly beloved teacher of the Czech school in Omaha. Died in that city in 1889.

Dongres, Ludvík W. Born August 24, 1872, in Kralovice and came to this country in 1891. Living at present in Granger, Texas. Editor: Hospodář, Omaha; Hospodářské Listy, Chicago; magazine Komenský, Lincoln; Hlasatel, Chicago; Česko-

Americký Venkov, Omaha and others. Wrote many articles for various papers and fiction and poems, sometimes under the pseudonym of Just-a-Man, also translated poetry.

Folda, Longin. Born March 15, 1864, in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, and died April 17, 1923, in Corpus Christi, Texas. For years a prominent banker of Nebraska, member of a pioneer family. Wrote a play Kupec a básník (The Merchant and Poet).

Habenicht, Dr. J. A. For details see "Physicians."

Havránek, Jaroslav Albert. For a time editor of the Pokrok Západu. Born February 12, 1879, in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and came to this country in 1904. Wrote articles, essays and lyrical poems, although nothing has been published in book form. Also a play "Dvou lásek spor" (A struggle between two loves), given in Chicago. In 1910 he published in the Pokrok Západu a versified novel, in the form of letters, taken from Czech-American life. Later he became a member of the editorial staff of the daily Hlasatel in Chicago, Ill., in which city he died January 5, 1929.

Hodyc, Rev. John, see "Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction."

Holeček, Joseph V., Niobrara (biography given in history of Knox County), had a story in the almanac Amerikán (1883) "A Czech emigrant in America" and a biography of his father. In the same almanac for 1884 an article "Graves of our presidents" and in that almanac for 1922 quite an extensive article "The first Czechs in Niobrara." He formerly wrote articles on farming for the Hospodář.

Hospodský, John A. Born in Tábor, Bohemia, in 1858. When he was eight years old, his entire family, except himself and a younger sister, died out by cholera. His aunt raised them, but she had scanty means and the boy suffered hardships while acquiring an education. When sixteen years old, he joined a theatrical company, staying three years, then obtained a position with a lawyer at home. In 1879

he was a member of an expedition undertaken by the Royal Botanical Commission of Dresden, to Canada. Upon his return, three months later, he left for Cleveland, where he worked on the Volnost, later on the Nová Vlast, in North Bend, Nebraska, which paper he bought and brought to Omaha, changing the name to Národní Listy. This paper was sold to John Rosický, whereupon Hospodský edited the populistic weekly Přítel Lidu in Wahoo, later acquiring ownership and moving it to Wilber, Nebraska. When he sold it later, he lived for a time in Chicago, working on the daily Hlasatel there. Returned to Wilber, where he edited the Saline County Democrat and was justice of the peace. Member of the state legislature in 1909 and 1911. Collaborated with Jos. Dvořák in writing a play "Chodové" and was always interested in drama. Later he was police judge in Wilber. (Died March 2, 1929.)

Hrbková, Šárka B. Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has B. A. degree from the State University of Iowa (1909) and M. A. from the University of Nebraska (1914). From 1895 to 1906 she taught in the public schools in Cedar Rapids, where she organized the first night school for foreigners and for two years taught it gratis. From 1908 to 1919 she was a member of the faculty of the University of Nebraska, where she was head of the Department of Slavonic Languages and Literature; in 1910 she received the title of Adjunct Professor; in 1914 Assistant Professor, with a position on the University Senate and in 1918 was made full professor. From 1908 to 1917 she was editor in chief of the Komenský Magazine, Lincoln. Between 1918 and 1919 she was State Chairman of the Women's Committee, Council of National Defense (Nebraska Division). Appointed by Dr. Anna Howard Shaw and later elected by a mass vote of the women of Ne-

Prof. Šárka B. Hrbková

braska. For her patriotic and tireless service she received no pay. In 1919 she was Chairman of the Speaker's Division of Women's State Liberty Loan Committee and in that year left the state for New York City, where at present she is manager of the Czechoslovak Bureau, Foreign Language Information Service. Miss Hrbková has written:

Bridging the Atlantic (a discussion of the Americanization problem), 1918; The Slavs of Central Europe (published by the Society for Advancement of Slavonic study) 1919; Czechoslovak Stories (translation of thirteen stories by Czech writers and a brief history of Czechoslovak literature) 1919; The Bohemians of Nebraska (volume 19 of Nebraska State Historical Publications); Jan Výrava, translation of a play by Fr. Ad. Šubrt (published in Poet Lore, No. 3, Vol. 26); Will O' The Wisp (translation of a play by Jaroslav Kvapil and biographical sketch of author) published in Poet Lore, No. 1, Vol. 27; The library and the foreign-born citizen (published in Public Libraries, March, 1910); Bunk in Americanization (published in the Forum, Nos. 4 and 5, Vol. LXIII); Americans of Czechoslovak descent (published in The Survey, June 11, 1921); The Czechoslovaks in America (in Our World, December, 1923); Articles on Masaryk's "Spirit of Russia," "Americanization," etc. (in Czechoslovak Review); Jan Žižka (in Orgán Bratrstva, November and December, 1925); The parrot (translation of story by Jan Havlasa and published in the Czechoslovak Review) and numerous reviews and articles published in The Survey and papers in Cleveland, Ohio; Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Hrbek, Prof. Jeffrey Doležal, a brother of Šárka B. Hrbková. A promising poet, who died prematurely, of whom more detailed mention is given in the chapter on Schools.

Janák, John. Born in Břesice, postoffice Křetín, Moravia, in 1876 and came to this country, to Omaha, in February, 1898. Having had agricultural experience on his father's farm and the extensive Defour de Walderode estates (Křetín-Vranová-Studlov), he began his newspaper career

under John Rosický, as editor of the Hospodář. Later he also edited the weekly Osvěta Americká, taking care of both papers at the same time. He has written many handbooks for farmers, as shown in the list of publications. At present he is with the daily Svornost in Chicago.

John Janák

Janda, Alois. Born February 15, 1869, in Klatovy, studied in Domažlice, where he graduated with honors. He came to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1893. He worked on papers and as teacher in Czech schools, in St. Louis, Mo., Chicago, Ill., Cleveland, Ohio, and Omaha, Nebr. Published a volume of poems (Českým duším —To Czech Souls) in St. Louis. He had a poetic talent of a very high order, but was a victim of intemperence and died in penury, in Chicago, February, 1911. For a time was editor of the Osvěta Americká in Omaha and compiled song and declamation books published by the National Printing Company of Omaha.

Jičínský, Dr. John Rudiš. Born May 16, 1862, in Jičín, Bohemia, the family name being Rudiš, the pseudonym Jíčinský. He came to this country, to Chicago, in 1884, where in 1885 he married Miss Louise Uher. In 1890 he was editor of the Domácnost and later Rovnost, both in Milwaukee, Wis., and in 1892 of the Pokrok Západu in Omaha. In 1893 he began to study medicine in Omaha and finished in 1896 in Rush Medical College, Chicago. In 1897 he began to practice in Crete, Nebraska, where he made many experiments with X-ray work and lectured and wrote many articles on that subject. In 1900 he moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, now living in Chicago, Ill. In his earlier years he wrote novels and stories, later articles on medical subjects, and was active in Těl. Jed. Sokol work, editing their organ Sokol Americký for many years. During the war (1914—1918) he was in Serbia and later in Siberia, serving as

physician, and that broke down his health, which he has never regained. He has translated many articles from English, also a book "Six Historical Americans" (by Remsburg) and has written articles for the Truth Seeker of New York City.

Jung, V. A. Born August 8, 1858, in Habrov near Rychnov, Bohemia, came to this country in 1881. He was first employed on the weekly Pokrok Západu in Omaha, during which time he wrote for the Květy Americké I. He translated very ably from Byron and Tennyson, and from Russian and Polish poets. Wrote a novel "Na prahu nového světa" (On the threshold of a new world), published in Omaha. Upon his return to his native land a number of years ago he compiled a large English-Czech dictionary and smaller English-Czech and Czech-English dictionaries. He was professor of English in a business college in Plzeň, Bohemia, then retired and died December 3, 1927.

Kašpar, Anton, editor of department on beekeeping in the Hospodář and author of "Practical American Bee-Keeper." See biography in history of Saunders County.

Klein, Monsignore Alois J., John Klein and **Rev. V. Kočárník,** see "Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction."

Kotouč, Otto. Born in Humboldt, Nebraska, April 22, 1885. Received A. B. degree from the State University of Nebraska in 1908. Served twice, as democrat, in state legislature, 1909 and 1911. In 1912 married Miss Camille Černík and is the father of two children. In 1909 he became assistant cashier of the State Bank of Humboldt and in 1915 helped to organize the Home State Bank there, at present being president of same. He has written an historical sketch "The Bohemian Settlement in Humboldt" and is author of a volume of translations of Bohemian poems "Songs of the Slav," published by The Poet Lore Company, New York, in 1919.

Koupal, Vít (Vitus). A well known writer on bee-keeping. Conducted the apiary department in the Hospodář for

years, living at that time in West Point, Nebraska. Died in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1919.

Kroupa, John Em. Born December 17, 1865, in Kutná Hora, Bohemia, died September 23, 1922, in Omaha. Editor and publisher of the weekly Kotva in Schuyler, Nebraska; editor of the Hospodář, Dělnické Listy and Květy Americké III in Omaha, and author of several hand-books for farmers, as shown in list of publications.

Kuták, Frank Jaroslav. Born in 1872 in Blatenka, Bohemia. Studied five years in the gymnasia in Písek, and came to this country, to Chicago, Ill., in 1887. Worked on a number of papers in New York, Cleveland, Chicago and Omaha. Published the weekly Osvěta in Omaha for a time and in Cleveland a monthly Rozhledy (review and literary) of a very high order. At present engaged on the editorial staff of a Cleveland daily and editor of the Orgán Bratrstva, the organ of the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society.

Miniberger, V. Born March 23, 1883, in Písek, Bohemia, where he studied. In 1902 he came to this country, during 1904 he studied in Fremont College, from 1904 to 1907 in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Omaha, where he was ordained. He was pastor in South Omaha 1907—1909, then in Racine, Wis., to 1913, when he ceased to be active in the ministry and moved to Baltimore, Maryland. At first he was superintendent of an immigrant home there, later published a weekly (Čecho-Američan) and in 1919 became editor of the socialist daily Spravedlnost, in Chicago, Illinois. He also edited, for six months, the organ of the Liberals, Věk Rozumu. While in Omaha, his novel (V mlhách—In the mists) was published by the Bohemian-American Publishing Company. Besides, he has written: Sláva kazatelova (The minister's fame), Malát (a versified novel) and Písně prérií a babylonských věží (Songs of the prairies and Babylonian towers), all published in Prague, Bohemia. He has contributed to many papers here

and in his native land. His literary pseudonym is Jan Harris Zachar.

Musil, Ferdinand L. Came to Omaha about 1900 and lived there a number of years. Contributed poems to various periodicals, was associate editor of the "Komenský" and other literary magazines. Published the almanac "Přítel Lidu." With Fred di Giorgi in Council Bluffs, Iowa, he wrote brochures on vegetable and flower gardening. At present on the editorial staff of the daily Hlasatel, Chicago, Illinois.

Ringsmuth, F. K. Literary pseudonym Jaromil Květenský. Born January 29, 1858, in Dobříš, Bohemia. Came to this country to New York City; in 1885 to Omaha, where for two years he edited the Květy Americké I, for which magazine he wrote a number of very good poems. Later he was associated with the weeklies Nová Doba and Svit in Schuyler, Nebraska. He published two volumes of poems and a novel "Černý stín lásky" (The black shadow of love). From Nebraska he moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where for some time he continued publishing the Svit and later became a Protestant minister. He has translated into Czech "In His Steps" by Rev. Charles Sheldon.

Rosický, John. Thomas Čapek in his book "The Čechs in America" says: "The roster of pioneers would be incomplete without the name of John Rosický of Omaha. A self-made man, Rosický came to be recognized as one of the forceful members of the journalistic profession. In 1877 he took over from Edward Rosewater the weekly Pokrok Západu (Progress of the West), then a small sheet, without influence and without readers. In time Rosický raised the Pokrok Západu to the front of Čech weeklies. That his tastes were higher than mere commercial journalism, he proved in 1884, when he set up the Květy Americké, the first genuine attempt at a Čech literary periodical. Bravely the Květy Americké strove to live up to the programme outlined in the prospectus of the publisher. But the most ambitious plans of a publisher are doomed to miscarry, if the reading community fails adequately to support him.

Tiring of recurring deficits, Rosický was forced to modify his original plan with the Květy Americké. Out of the compromise emerged in 1903 a publication called Osvěta Americká (American Enlightenment), half commercial, half literary. By far the most profitable of Rosický's ventures proved to be an agricultural paper, the Hospodář (The Farmer). This publication now claims a larger circulation than any other agricultural paper printed in the Čech language. Rosický was a newspaper man and not an author,

John and Mary (Bayer) Rosický

although he published his translation of the Nebraska School Laws and a brief booklet, businesslike and to the point 'Jak je v Americe' (Conditions in America) for the guidance of newly-arrived compatriots in America. A man of compelling individuality, he rendered helpful service to the settlers west of the Missouri river."

To complete this data we add: In 1877 Rosický bought the Pokrok Západu from Edward Rosewater and published

it until 1900, when he sold the paper. In 1884 he began to publish the first Květy Americké (American Blossoms), a literary magazine containing, besides the serial novel, only original work by Czech-American literati,—the only paper of its kind ever published in this country. In 1887 he changed it to a bi-monthly containing novels that could be later bound in book form. This was called Knihovna Americká (American Library). In 1891 he established the farm paper Hospodář, the only one of his papers still being published. About that time he founded a stock company Pokrok Západu Printing Company, the name of which was later changed to National Printing Company. In 1900 he tried again a second Květy Americké, unsuccessfully, and in 1903 he bought the weekly Osvěta, combining the two into the weekly Osvěta Americká. In 1916, after his death, a third Květy Americké was tried, but the magazine was suspended in its third year. The company he founded has published many books, brochures, etc., as shown elsewhere.

As also mentioned elsewhere, he is called the father of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, for he was active as a speaker and organizer. His company conducts also a book-selling department, importing books from Bohemia, and thus he was instrumental in helping many lodges, settlements and even state universities (Nebraska and Minnesota) to establish Czech libraries. This he did often at a financial loss just to help the cause of culture. He was instrumental in having the Department of Slavonic Languages established in the Nebraska State University and always gave of his time, strength and money to any worthy public cause. In the last year of his active life (1909) he tried to establish a club, the object of which was to collect all Czech printed matter and cultural objects in this country, to be sent to the National Museum and Náprstek's Museum in Prague, Bohemia. In that last year, too, in August, 1909, he was made president of the Bohemian-American Press Association, the object of which was to furnish to the American papers and public correct information about Czechs and their native land. His tireless and persistent labors in these various directions, to the very day when he

was stricken (December 4, 1909) were, at his age, an example and inspiration to those around him.

Rosický's biographical data are given in the introduction, and ought to be completed thus: He came to this country in 1861 as a fifteen-year-old boy. It is noteworthy that, although he was always very active as an American citizen, he never ceased to be a Czech patriot. After spending some time in Boscobel, Wisconsin, where his parents (John and Josephine Malát Rosický) had settled on a farm, he moved to Chicago, where he established a store, which was destroyed by the great Chicago fire in 1871. He then traveled through the west, going to the Pacific coast and on his return, in 1873, settled in Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, where he entered into partnership with Frank and Joseph Jelínek, general merchandise. In 1874 he married Miss Mary Bayer, who was born December 8, 1854, in Klatovy, Bohemia, died in Omaha, October 9, 1912. In 1876 they moved to Omaha, for the grasshoppers drove Rosický out of business. Mrs. Rosický was the author of a cook book which is in its sixth edition and has been translated into English (Bohemian-American Cook Book). Nine children were born of the union. But four grew to adulthood and of these Emma Rosický, a teacher in the Omaha public schools for twenty years, died in 1918. Rose Rosický, John Garfield and Walter survive.

Rose Rosický

Rosický, Rose. Daughter of John Rosický. Born July 22, 1875, in Crete, Nebraska. In March, 1876, her parents moved to Omaha, where she has lived since. For a number of years she was her father's secretary, after his death became associate editor of the Osvěta Americká, Hospodář and Květy Americké III. Translated for the Osvěta Americká Ramona by Helen Hunt Jackson and The Price of the Prairie by Margaret Hill McCarter, besides

many articles and stories. Edited five volumes of the almanac Pioneer, for which she prepared translations. Translated also S. E. Forman's History of the United States. All the foregoing were translations from English into Czech. From Czech into English she translated her mother's cook book (Bohemian-American Cook Book) and stories by the following leading Czech writers: Karel V. Rais, Gabriela Preissová, Růžena Svobodová and Božena Viková-Kunětická. She has compiled several handbooks for farmers and the home, as shown in the list of publications. At present associate editor of the Hospodář. Author of this history.

Sadílek, F. J. His biography appears in the history of Saline County. He has written many articles of a reminiscing nature for the almanac Amerikán (Chicago) and the Osvěta Americká and Hospodář (Omaha). Some of these were published in brochure form by the National Printing Company in 1914, as "My Reminiscences" (Z mých upomínek), but are not shown in the list of publications, because they were printed for private distribution. This is true also of a travelogue written by Dr. Breuer for the Osvěta Americká, when he visited Europe.

Šedivý, Joseph Paul, Niobrara (his biography is given in history of Knox County), wrote for the Osvěta Americká (March 15th and 22nd, 1911), "Memories of the days when Czechs began to settle in Knox County." For the almanac Pionýr: 1917—My reminiscences of pioneer days in Nebraska—The last buffalo—Black Horse. 1918—Memories of pioneer hardships. 1919—The tragedy of the Brabenec family. 1920—Reprint of article in Osvěta Americká, listed above and his biography. 1921—My ride for life.

Šnajdr, Václav. Born September 26, 1847, in České Budějovice, Bohemia, died in California a few years ago. One of the early editors of the Pokrok Západu. Spent his life in Cleveland, Ohio, where for many years he published the weekly Dennice Novověku, a paper of decided anti-clerical tendency. Some of his poems were published in Květy Americké I.

Valášek, Joseph. Pseudonym Sigma. Born October 20, 1868, in Vřešťov, Bohemia, studied in Hradec Králové and graduated the law school of the University of Prague. Inasmuch as he was politically active, as a Czech patriot, he was sentenced to thirteen months' imprisonment, but escaped to this country, arriving in Chicago, Ill., October 1, 1895. He became associate editor of the weekly Dennice Novověku in Cleveland, and later edited the Květy Americké II in Omaha, his work, both prose and poetry, being of a very good quality. When the Květy Americké II suspended, he returned to Cleveland, but did not enter the literary field any more. Living in Cleveland.

Vránek, Monsignore John, see "Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction."

Žalud, Rev. Francis, see "Priests Who Have Achieved Distinction."

Zdrůbek, F. B. Born July 26, 1842, in Bezdědice, near Hostomice, died in Chicago, Ill., September 14, 1911. One of the early editors of the Pokrok Západu. For many years was editor of the Chicago daily Svornost. Like Šnajdr, he was a leader of the anti-clericals. Compiled a number of Czech-English and English-Czech dictionaries, readers, text books for learning English, etc.

Schools

Love for one's native land and language is natural, but it is much stronger in people living in countries subjected to the rule of an alien government. Bohemia is a notable example of this truism. Despite the efforts of the Austrian (German-language) government for two hundred years to stamp out the Czech's language, it never died but revived again in its full purity and beauty. What wonder then that emigrants to our shores brought with them this love for their native tongue and tried to keep it alive here for their children? However, they never forgot their duty to this country and sent their children to public school regularly. This applies to the time before Catholic schools, where Czech is taught, were established, and that time came much later, the first such school, in Dodge, having been established by Rev. John St. Brož in 1911.

The Liberals, while sending their children to the public schools, prepared for them Czech-language schools for Saturdays and in some cases Sunday forenoons. Miss Šárka Hrbková, in an address held on July 4, 1917, in Krug Park, Omaha, very aptly summed up their attitude when she said: "I should be ashamed if I could not speak to my mother in the language in which she first spoke to me, but I should be equally ashamed, if my mother had not seen to it that I received an education in English, the language of my country."

These little Czech-language schools were sponsored mainly by lodges and the teachers were men (women but exceptionally, for the men had in a larger measure the necessary education) who devoted themselves to the work for a very modest stipend. Occasionally a summer term was held, school being in session forenoons during the summer vacation. This is still being done, for instance in Schuyler, Clarkson and Omaha. As a rule, the children did not take kindly to it, and looking at it from their view, we cannot

blame them. They did not have the feeling about the language that the parents had, and they felt it an encroachment upon the time belonging to play and vacation. A very natural feeling, although painful for the parents.

In 1913 a law came into being that provided for the teaching of any modern language in every high school, city or metropolitan school. Upon the written request of parents or guardians of fifty pupils above the fourth grade then attending school, the authorities were allowed to employ competent teachers and provide for the teaching, above the fourth grade, as an elective course of study, of such modern European language as was designated in the request. Provided that not more than five hours each week and not less than one period each day be devoted to the teaching of such language in any elementary or grade school.

As early as 1907 a Slavonic Department has been established in our State University. More detailed mention of this is given in the paragraph describing the Komenský Clubs. The law described above (1913) resulted in Czech being taught in the following accredited schools:

Clarkson	1913—1919
Crete	1913—1916
Dwight	1916—1918
Milligan	1914—1919
Prague	1915—1919
Verdigre	1916—1919
Wilber	1917—1919

The above is taken from official records and there probably were other similar cases. For instance, Miss Anna Svačina taught Czech an hour daily in Comenius School in Omaha about that time. Mr. John F. Špirk taught Czech in the Wilber High School. And even before this law was created, Czech was taught one-half day in the week in several strongly Czech towns, like Prague. However, the war came on and feeling ran high, so that in 1919 the so-called Siman law was passed, reading, in part, thus: "No person, individually or as a teacher, shall, in any private, denominational, parochial or public school, teach any subject to any person in any language than the English language." In 1921 the so-called Norval law was passed,

making the Siman law even more stringent. However, in June, 1923, the United States Supreme Court held it unconstitutional and a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

But a natural law, more potent than any legal law, is working toward the obliteration of foreign languages in this country, for with the second and third generations the language of the ancestors dies out. We are speaking now of language as used commonly. Those who care to study foreign languages are the exception and not the rule.

Following is a list of Czech (Liberal) schools, which undoubtedly is incomplete, but is the best that could be

Frank Kotouč

Joseph Štěrba

done at this date. Of the teachers, all of whom taught more for love than gain, Jos. Štěrba stands first, having taught in South Omaha for twenty-eight years, while Frank Kotouč of Humboldt taught there twenty years.

1873:—The first school on record, when Joseph Jindra began to teach Czech in a little log schoolhouse on Joseph Jelinek's farm near Crete, Saline County. In this same schoolhouse English was taught, as described in the chapter on teachers. Jindra was succeeded in 1875 by Miss Mary Jícha (later Mrs. Havlík) and she in 1876 by a Mr. Hunčovský. Then there was an interim until 1913 and 1914, when Václav Kačer taught in Crete in a school sponsored by Lodge Nebraska No. 3, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. His wife, Minnie, a public school teacher, taught an hour daily, under the Siman law, but there was not enough interest to warrant continuance.

Cuming County—Frank Pospíšil Sr., taught in the **early seventies** in a schoolhouse across the river from West Point.

1877:—A school was established in Schuyler, Colfax County, by the Literary & Dramatic Society Tyl and Lodge Západní Jednota No. 42, Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society. Joseph W. Zerzan, Joseph Kubík, Václav Malý and Joseph Šmatlán took turns in teaching, asking no pay. It may be noted here that the pay of any of these teachers was very small or nothing. Of these only Joseph Šmatlán is living. As in other instances, the public school buildings were kindly loaned by the school authorities, gratis. Later the Č. S. P. S. (Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society) hall was used, under the same conditions. In 1885 a board was elected, comprised of the following: Frank Otradovský, president; Joseph Šmatlán, treasurer; F. J. Kovář, secretary; Joseph Malý, financial secretary. The first paid teacher was John H. Steiger, who taught two days per week for five dollars per month. The following year he taught three days in the week for $15.00 monthly. A. Z. Donato succeeded him to 1888, when he was followed by J. Em. Kroupa, and then returned to his old post again. There was an interim until 1892, when F. L. Fuks taught, followed by A. Z. Donato. In 1894 V. Kadlec had charge, an interim of two years followed and in 1897 A. Z. Donato was once again in charge. In 1898 John Žabka, an interim following and in 1900 F. Dagobert Novák, 1901 F. H. Svoboda and again an interim. In 1904 V. Miniberger taught, then to 1908 Rudolph Fibinger. In 1909 F. Okřina and again an interim. In 1912 Karel Severin became teacher, an able pupil of the school itself, grown to manhood. In 1913 and 1914 Fr. Šedý taught, followed by Mr. Severin. In 1916 Miss A. G. Vaněk came from New York to teach during the summer and in 1917 Miss Caroline Cílek. During the war there was a pause, then 1920—1921 Rudolph Kohlíček Hartwald from Chicago taught and the school changed to a dramatic club for young people. In 1922 to 1924 Břetislav Jonáš from Chicago taught. From 1885 to 1892 the entire burden of maintaining the school rested upon the two lodges first mentioned. In 1892 the J. A. Komenský Camp (Modern Woodmen) and Lodge Vytrvalost of the Union of Bohemian Women joined, in 1893 the Těl. Jed. Sokol and Lodge Jan Hus, A. O. U. W., in 1897 Camp Svornost, W. O. W. and in 1901 Woodmen Circle also joined. In 1901 the Literary and Dramatic Club Tyl disbanded and donated the amount in its treasury ($50.00) to the school. The following societies were added to the list of patrons: Dancing & Pleasure Club, Lodge Blaník (Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) and in 1907 Vlastenky, the Ladies Sokol Club. Aside from contributions of the lodges and clubs, the school was maintained from proceeds of entertainments, picnics, theatricals, etc., arranged by the teacher. In 1886—1900 Mr. A. Z. Donato (elder) established a private school for the teaching of Bohemian, and both schools prospered together. The teacher's salary was gradually raised, until in 1923—1924 it reached $144.00 per month, school being taught during the summer vacation. On the average fifty pupils were enrolled, forty attending daily. This looks very hopeful, it would seem and yet Joseph Sudík, who has furnished this data, adds: "But all in all, the end will come, for Czech national feeling is dying out."

1878:—A school was established in Wilber, Saline County, and among the teachers were: V. J. Štědrý, Peter Šafářík, Frank Cetlovský, V. A. Jung, Charles Jindra and S. L. Kostoryz. It ceased to exist years ago.

1880:—From 1880 to 1882 Joseph V. Holeček taught Czech and English in Niobrara, Knox County, on Sundays, during six winter months. About 1896 Miss Anna Jelen taught one summer in Verdigre, and later, during 1913 and 1914, Miss Marie Tikalský and A. V. Kouba taught during vacation. About 1910 a cigar maker named Donat also taught. In Pishelville a Mr. Vonásek taught about 1906.

1881:—A school was established in Omaha, which, except for two interims, has been in existence ever since. On December 11, 1881, a meeting was held in Svačina's Hall and the following were present: Fr. J. Kašpar, V. L. Vodička, Frank Vodička, George Hoffman, Václav Jablečník, Frank Jelen, Václav Fiala, Čeněk Hrabík, Frank Serbousek, A. Hájek, A. Francl, John Svačina, Ladislav Fliegel and John Rosický. The Omaha School Board donated the use of the school-room in Holub's building, corner 13th and William streets, where Prague Hotel now stands, gratis. The first teacher was Ladislav Fliegel, who taught about a year and then moved to Chicago. He was followed by V. A. Jung and T. Čapek, in 1885 by Joseph Dinebier, who taught until his death, in 1889. Dinebier, with possibly the exception of Rudolph Fibinger, who came many years after him, was the best beloved of all the teachers. Both men died young and both were victims of tuberculosis. Dinebier was succeeded by Miroslav Ráček. In 1890 a school house was built on ground donated by Mr. Joseph Michal, near 12th and Pacific streets. The Těl. Jed. Sokol and other lodges helped defray expenses. Mr. Ráček was succeeded by J. A. Hospodský, Rev. J. Pípal, J. F. Přibyl, L. W. Dongres, J. V. Mašek and Mrs. E. Bandhauer. Toward the close of the nineties the school was closed for a while. When the Těl. Jed. Sokol built its hall on 13th street near Dorcas, the building was moved there. Three grades were instituted at that time, Joseph Buňata and Václav Bureš taught the first, Charles Štěnička the second and J. V. Mašek the third. After Mr. Buňata's departure Chas. Štěnička and Fred Sláma continued the work. Their successor was Rudolph Fibinger. After his death Alois Kořísko became teacher and then in succession the following: Mrs. Al. Kořísko, John Klípa, John F. Práchenský, Joseph Růžička, Ladislav Tkadlec and John Klípa, the present teacher, again charge.

1883:—The school in Humboldt, Richardson County, was established and Frank Kotouč taught until 1903, twenty years. He was succeeded by Bohuslav Ningr, who taught until 1906.

1892:—The school in Morse Bluff, Saunders County, was established when Joseph Prai taught one year in Frank Hineš's hall. In 1904 Frank Kaplan taught in summer in School District 54, on Sundays. In 1912 Miss Gizela Lawetz taught on Saturdays and was succeeded in 1913 and 1914 by Frank Lorenc, also on Saturdays.

1892:—Lodge Západní Svornost 147, Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society (now Západní Svornost 28, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) established a school in its hall, in Clarkson, Colfax

County. Anton Odvárka Sr., taught Sunday forenoons. Later Czech was taught one hour each on Friday forenoons in the public school by the Misses Nettie Aksamit, Stella Folda and Supt. Fred Jelínek, in turn. A few years later, at the instigation of several lodges, the period was enlarged and Anton Odvárka Sr., assisted by Miss Louise Dušátko, taught. Joseph A. Kučera taught one year, during summer vacation, three days a week. During the war all such activity ceased and in 1920 the Czech school was reopened under the guidance of Rev. B. A. Filipi, the Presbyterian minister, and has continued since, the periods being four half days a week and eight weeks in summer vacation.

During the winters between 1901 and 1904, Joseph Křikač taught Czech and English in an evening school. The number of pupils on the average was thirty and their ages varied from ten to forty-five years. The district paid the heat and light and the pupils paid Mr. Křikač $1.00 per month each. Sessions three evenings each week, four months in the year.

1894:—A school in Pawnee County was established, being in session Sunday forenoons during the summer vacation. John Neděla taught in a German Evangelical church in the country, near the Richardson County boundary. The rent was free and the teacher donated his services. In 1896 another school was founded four miles northwest of DuBois, in a community hall, being in session Sunday forenoons during summer. It continued for three years, the tuition fee being twenty-five cents per month, the teacher receiving $1.00 for each session. Forty pupils attended and F. G. Dobrovolný taught, then a young man, who walked three miles to school. When Lodge Jan Kollár No. 101 of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association was founded in DuBois, in 1900, it sponsored a Czech school in School District No. 31, under F. G. Dobrovolný. At present there is no Czech school in DuBois. In 1905 and 1906 and again in 1911 and 1912, Lodge Přemysl Otakar II, No. 84, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, sponsored a school in Table Rock and all that time Mrs. A. R. Kovanda taught. About fifty-four children were enrolled with an average attendance of thirty-six.

1894:—A school was established in South Omaha, sponsored by the Lodge Hvězda Svobody (Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society), Lodge Olivová Ratolest (Union of Bohemian Women) and Těl. Jed. Sokol, in Brown Park schoolhouse, during the summer vacation. Bohumír Horáček taught four days per week, having two classes of ninety children. The course included: reading, writing, history, Czech songs, arithmetic and geography. After vacation a number of old seats were purchased from the school board and a school-room fitted in an empty store building on 21st and S streets, where school was taught for several years, until the National Hall was built on 21st and U streets. Horáček was succeeded by F. J. Fitl, he in turn by Joseph Štěrba, the present teacher, who has been faithful to his post since 1898, making him the oldest teacher, of this kind, in years of service, in the state.

1899:—The school in Boyd County was taught by Anton Bašta during one summer.

1900:—The school in Howell, Colfax County, was established, sponsored by Lodge Svoboda No. 60, Western Bohemian Fraternal

Association and the parents. The first teacher was Anton Ryšavý and was followed by Miss Louise Dušátko, who used to come from Clarkson. Later Prof. Srb taught in the public schoolhouse.

1907:—A school was established in Brainard, Butler County, under the tutelage of Prof. Fred Jelínek, maintained by the parents, but is not now in existence.

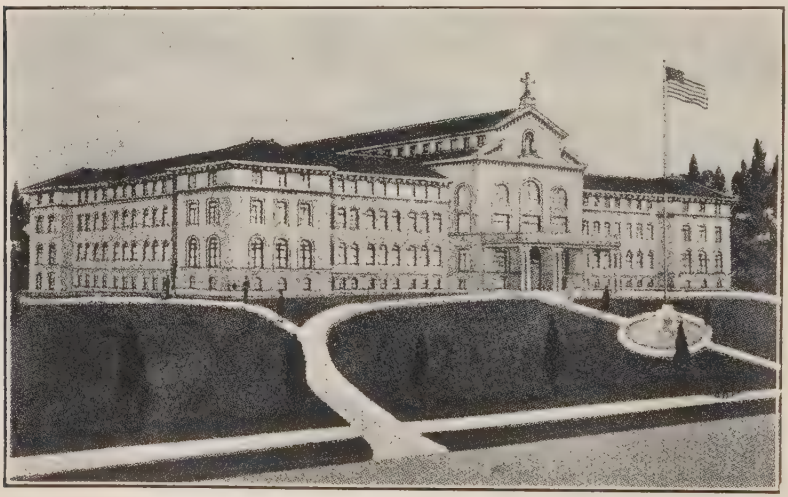
1916:—A school was founded in Ord, Valley County, with an average attendance of thirty pupils. Miss Ludmila Kupec taught during the three summer months. Since then Czech was not taught until 1925, when Rev. Cejnar, a Presbyterian minister, taught during the three summer months in the hall belonging to Lodge Dennice No. 14, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, about thirty-five pupils attending. The hall was used gratis. In the earlier days Joseph Křikač taught Czech in School District 63 of Valley County, in 1895 and 1896. He gave to this work two hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week, for three months. The district school board did not charge anything and Mr. Křikač also gave his services gratis. About forty children attended.

1916:—A school was maintained in Virginia, Gage County, for one year, by Lodge Osvěta No. 94 and Šumava No. 130 of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, in a building one mile east and two miles south of Virginia. Vojtěch V. Habrich taught and the session was held on Sundays, with about forty-five pupils attending.

1916:—Howard County—C. V. Svoboda, St. Paul, established a school which was discontinued in 1918.

Catholic Schools

While the Liberals confine themselves to teaching Czech outside of public-school hours, the Catholics teach it as



Notre Dame Academy in Omaha (Florence)

part of the regular course in their schools, as listed below. As will be seen, with the exception of the St. Wenceslaus school in Omaha, all are being taught by Sisters de Notre Dame, the Czech branch. This congregation was founded by St. Peter Fourier in Lorraine, Europe, in 1597 and was introduced into Bohemia in 1853 by Father Gabriel Schneider. Five sisters of this Community, headed by Mother Mary Gualberta, came to this country in 1910, at the request of the Rev. C. A. Bleha of St. Louis, Mo. One year later Rev. John St. Brož invited the sisters to conduct a new Catholic school in Dodge, Nebraska, where he was incumbent. Since that time, these Czech Notre Dame sisters were given charge of several other schools, as shown in the following. There are now fifty-four sisters, five novices and five candidates in the community. Their provicinal mother-house in Omaha, 35th and State Streets, was consecrated August 15, 1926, by Bishop Beckman of Lincoln, Mother Gualberta still in charge. The building is a two-thirds unit, costing $200,000 and houses an academy for young women, the first of its kind in the middle west.

Brainard, Butler County:—A ten-grade and high school, with school of music in connection. Built in 1915, consecrated August 23, 1916, and sessions commenced September 5, 1916, with an attendance of 147 pupils. Later two grades were added (Junior High School) and in 1917—1919 there were 200 pupils. At present about 150 day and boarding pupils. Czech taught half an hour daily.

Dodge, Dodge County:—An eight-grade school, built in 1911. Taught by Sisters de Notre Dame. 126 pupils attend.

Omaha—St. Wenceslaus: Taught by four Sisters of Mercy. 210 pupils attend.

Assumption of Blessed Virgin (South Omaha): Taught by six Sisters de Notre Dame. 300 pupils attend.

St. Adalbert: Taught by three Sisters de Notre Dame. Eighty-five pupils attend.

Prague, Saunders County:—Taught by three Sisters de Notre Dame and one secular teacher. 120 pupils attend.

Schuyler, Colfax County:—School for music, art, foreign languages, etc. Taught by Sisters de Notre Dame.

Wahoo, Saunders County:—A twelve-grade school. Business course taught also. Taught by Sisters de Notre Dame. 164 day pupils and sixty-one boarding pupils attend.

The schools at Brainard, Prague and Wahoo are grade and high schools, that in Schuyler is for music, art, foreign languages, etc., the rest are grade schools.

Czech Department In Creighton University

In the spring of 1924 Prof. Chas. C. Charvat, then teaching English in the Creighton University of Omaha, conceived the possibility of a Czech or Bohemian language department. He communicated with his former schoolfellow, Rev. Edward C. Chapuran, now pastor of St. Wenceslaus church, Omaha, who was entertaining a similar design. With the consent of Rev. John F. McCormick, president of the University, the project was continued. Early in June Prof. Charvat announced in the Omaha papers that Czech would be taught the following September and these announcements were repeated through summer. It was agreed that it would be best to begin with an elementary course, to be given in the evenings, thus enabling professional students and non-university students to take the course. Classes were begun with about twenty students and when the class was changed from evening to day sessions, at the end of the first semester, the number diminished somewhat, but the results in June were better than expected.

Prof. Chas. C. Charvat

Prof. Charvat and Rev. Chapuran agreed that it might be well to cultivate a spirit of national pride, before sufficient enthusiasm could be mustered for a successful Czech department and consequently, on December 10, 1924, a group of Czech students from the various colleges of the university organized the Czech Club. The names of twenty-five students were submitted and the immediate purpose of the club was to "further the study of the Czech language, literature and history, and to provide social entertainment." The ultimate purpose was to realize the wish of President McCormick: "To make Creighton University a center of Czech intellectual and cultural life in the Middle West." The officers elected were: Adolph Svoboda of Abie, Nebraska, president and Joseph S. Pallat of Wahoo,

Nebraska, secretary-treasurer. Rev. Edward C. Chapuran was chosen faculty moderator. The first formal meeting occurred on December 17, 1924 and the late Rev. Monsignore John Vránek made an eloquent plea for a continuation of the Czech student activity at Creighton. Music, oratory, recitations and dancing were strong features of the Czech Club programs from the beginning. Other speakers who helped to make the Czech Club a success during the first year were: Dr. F. A. Sedláček, Dr. Olga Šťastný, Mrs F. A. Sedláček, Dr. F. G. Smola, Mr. Stanley Šerpán, — all of Omaha and Mr. Frank Doležal of Wahoo, Nebr.

In the Summer School of 1925 at Creighton University, two courses of the Czech language, one elementary and the other advanced, were given and attended by twenty-two students. In September 1925 two Czech courses were initiated and conducted successfully through the year by Rev. Edward Chapuran. One was a day course in elementary Czech and the other an evening course in Czech literature. October 29th the Czech Club was reorganized with Joseph S. Pallat, president, Roman Hruška, Omaha, vice-president, Miss Irene Tauchen, Omaha, secretary-treasurer and John Cacek of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, chairman of the entertainment committee. Prof. Charvat was chosen faculty moderator.

The prospects for the second term were very encouraging. Two hundred Czech books of fiction, biography, poetry, history and drama were received from the Ministry of Education of Czechoslovakia, upon the recommendation of Mr. Stanley Šerpán, Czechoslovak Consul in Omaha and a similar donation of thirty books was received from the Chicago headquarters of the National Alliance of Bohemian Catholics in America, with smaller donations by individual friends. Prof. Charvat, who has furnished the data about the Czech Department and Club, says: "While the future of the Czech Department is promising, I cannot refrain from saying that the sum total of the little difficulties which persisted in besetting the path which Rev. Chapuran and I had to tread until now, has on more than one occasion been sufficiently discouraging to make me wish to abandon the

work. Fortunately when the enthusiasm of one chanced to ebb, the other was aglow with fresh zest and in that manner a perpetual interest was maintained in support of the venture.'' While this department and club, says Prof. Charvat, has done good work in stimulating young Czech-Americans to concern themselves with the intellectual and cultural value of their original nationality; has won admiration of many Czechs in the middle west; has brought publicity of the best kind for the university, — for its continued success it would be desirable to have one person devote all his time, or the major part of it, to this work. Both Rev. Chapuran and Prof. Charvat have been able to give it but their spare time.

The Slavonic Department In The Nebraska University And The Komensky Clubs

The Komenský Clubs (named for Jan Amos Komenský, or Comenius, the pioneer educator) were founded during the Christmas vacation 1903 by Prof. Bohumil Šimek of the State University of Iowa and F. J. Pípal, a student of the Nebraska University. Mr. Pípal later became a professor in the Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, and now lives in Humboldt, Nebr. Upon his return to school, after vacation, in January 1904, Mr. Pípal and a group of twelve students met and founded the Komenský Educational Clubs. According to the constitution, any club or society of an educational or cultural nature was entitled to membership upon taking the name Komenský Educational Club and the aim was to help all clubs enrolled in educational effort, which was to form a bond among Czech-Americans. Further, Czech language and songs were to be perpetuated, Czech history and literature studied, the social condition of our people here, mentally and morally, was to be improved, and Americans were to be informed of whatever meritorious endeavors were undertaken by Czechs.

The first step taken in this direction was to request the regents of the Nebraska State University to establish a Department of Slavonic Languages and Literature, but this request was refused, on the grounds that there was not

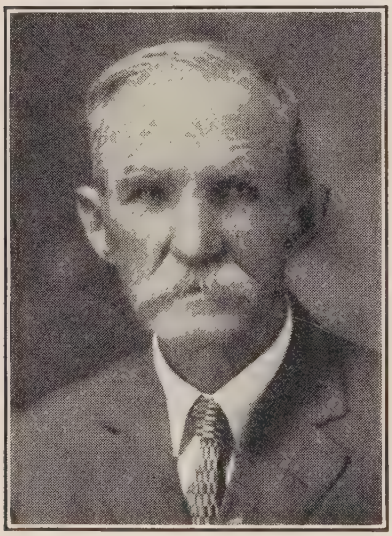
enough public interest among Czechs to warrant it. The students were not discouraged and began to prepare the way by forming clubs. The first was that in Lincoln, No. 1. No. 2 was founded in South Omaha, June 1904, by Joseph V. Štěrba (now a physician in Chicago) and Mr. Pípal. Club No. 3 was formed in Omaha, January 1905, but when some of the leading members, among them S. L. Kostohryz, F. J. Kuták, Rev. Jar. W. Dobiáš and V. Miniberger left the city, it disbanded and the club formed later in Iowa City, Iowa, by Jeffrey D. Hrbek, took No. 3 for its number.

In the meantime agitation for the Slavonic Department continued. During the winter of 1906 and 1907 John Rosický and Václav Bureš of Omaha planned to make a new request. They were present at the meeting of the regents February 15, 1907, together with Frank Rejcha, a pioneer of Lancaster County and at the time a member of the state legislature. Rosický made his plea and spoke of the history of Bohemia and John Amos Comenius, the great educator. Bureš told how the Austrian government had tried to Germanize the Czechs in the past, and Rejcha made his plea on behalf of the large number of Czechs living in Nebraska. Chancellor Andrews replied that financial conditions would not permit this new expenditure. He said however, that if Rejcha would help the passage of the bill allowing one mill of the entire state tax for the state university, the Slavonic Department might materialize.

Rosický then cautioned Rejcha to do his best. The Omaha delegation was putting through the so-called "Terminal Taxation Bill", relating to the taxation of railroad properties and the railroads and their lobbyists of course wanted to kill the bill. The struggle lasted six weeks. The Lincoln Daily Star published a cartoon, showing Frank Rejcha as an old, cross man, with the caption: "Frank Rejcha is watching the lobbyists and grafters". On March 24, 1907, at half after three, the voting began. The railroads schemed to keep the number not over 45 votes. Rejcha asked the help of Victor Rosewater, who was there as reporter for his Daily Bee, and who agreed to call a meeting (the previous evening) of the Douglas County delegation

numbering nine. A member named Harvey bargained with Rejcha, if he would vote against the railroads, he (Harvey) would vote for the mill levy. Rejcha had secretly obtained ten votes and finally the levy bill, which meant the Slavonic Department, passed by 56 votes, the Terminal Bill by 55 votes. Of course those who worked for the railroads were chagrined, but Rejcha told them he was there in the interest of the people and not for corporations.

It seemed then, that the Slavonic Department was assured, but governor Sheldon, who was preparing his way for a second term, reduced the expense estimate by $80,000 and Chancellor Andrews again did not see his way clear to grant the request for a Department of Slavonic languages, in spite of the appeals of Rosický and Bureš. He went abroad and Bureš cabled the request anew and this time it was granted.



Frank Rejcha

Frank Rejcha was born August 13, 1858 in Bělejšov, near Chuděnice, County Klatovy. He came to Michigan in 1876, in March 1877 to Nebraska, where he worked at first on the farms of Frank Jelínek and Václav Šesták, Saline county pioneers. In 1879 he bought railroad land in Lancaster County and in December of that year married Anna Chrastil, daughter of a Lancaster County pioneer. Mrs. Rejcha died in 1925 and Mr. Rejcha now lives in Wilber, Nebr., where he is serving his fourth term as member of the Town Board. During his time in the legislature there was but one other Bohemian member, but he did nothing for the cause.

Václav Bureš, who with Rejcha and Rosický, endeavored to have the department established, was born in Voseček,

Bohemia, Nov. 28, 1859, his father being John Bureš. When four years old he became an orphan. He came to this country, to Iowa, in 1863, attended school in winter and worked on farms in summer. At the age of nineteen years he began to attend Western College, then an academy in Iowa City, and later for two years the Iowa State University. He then worked in stores and later moved to Rockford, Iowa. February 18, 1884 he married Miss Jennie B. Letovský, of Iowa City, daughter of John Bárta Letovský who with Francis Kořízek published the first Czech paper in this country, the Slowan Amerikánský of Racine (which later was changed to Slavie) and who for years published the Slovan Americký in Iowa City, Ia. In August 1886 Bureš and family moved to Omaha, where at first he engaged in business, then was deputy in the office of county and city treasurers. In 1900 he helped to form the company that took over the publishing of the Pokrok Západu. His activities along these lines are given in the history of that paper, under the title of "Publications". In 1901 he was a member of our state legislature, as representative, republican. At present he lives in Los Angeles, Calif.

Václav Bureš

In the fall of 1907 Jeffrey Doležal Hrbek became professor of the new department. He was the youngest son of Joseph and Barbara (Doležal) Hrbek and was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, August 21, 1882. His parents were among the early settlers of Iowa, having come to the valley of the Cedar River in the early sixties. Mrs. Hrbek was left a widow in 1887, with five children. Jeffrey early displayed unusual powers of mind. He attracted the attention of his teachers and in high school came under the influence of Miss Mary G. McClenahan, who encouraged his poetic talent and to whose memory he dedicated the class poem "Where Brook And River Meet", written at his graduation from Washing-

ton High School. At that time he began writing verse and through his efforts "The Pulse", a literary magazine, was established. He was first editor. After leaving high school he taught in the public schools of Cedar Rapids and in 1902—3 entered Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., where he gained distinction in literary and language studies. He visited Bethlehem, Nazareth and Lititz in Pennsylvania and examined the libraries, schools, cemeteries and other landmarks left by those early zealous countrymen of his parents, who had settled there in the first half of the eighteenth century (the Bohemian and Moravian Brethren, Unitas Fratrum). Upon visiting an old Bohemian cemetery there, he conceived the motif for his poem "The Old Bohemian Cemetery", written in 1905, which is given in this history, in the chapter on cemeteries. Upon his return to his native city, he taught in the public schools and in summer vacation in the Czech school. In the fall of 1904 he entered the State University of Iowa. His individuality was felt everywhere and the reading of his poem "The Weavers" on Class Day, June 1907, will not soon be forgotten by those who were present. A month after his graduation he was formally tendered the position of head of the newly-organized Department of Slavonic and instructor of the Germanic languages and literatures in the University of Nebraska. He had refused two other flattering offers in order that he might best serve the Czech people as instructor in the newly appointed chair, which was an innovation in western colleges, and also that he might not be separated too far from his beloved mother. He began preparations for his work and outlined a thoroughly practical text-book of Czech grammar. Long before that he had, as principal of the Czech school in Cedar Rapids, planned an excellent reader of selections from the best

Prof. J. D. Hrbek

Bohemian authors and poets. He plunged into his work with great energy and worked zealously in the Komenský Clubs. He made such an impression on the young men of All Souls' Church that they have named their body "Hrbek Association", to perpetuate his memory. On November 14th he became ill of typhoid fever and died December 4, 1907. On December 7th, in the Czech school building, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, thousands assembled to bid farewell to this talented youth of twenty-five, who had known and loved them all. On New Year's Day 1908, at the first convention of the Komenský Clubs, a movement was started to gather a fund for placing of a memorial in his honor and this was carried out by the erection of a monument to him in his native city. His collected poems were published in 1908 under the title of "Linden Blossoms", the linden (sometimes called the basswood) being the national tree of Bohemia, an emblem. Aside from that he had translated many Czech poems and from the German (Goethe), dedicating the latter to his professor of German in the Iowa University. Most of his own poems represent about seven years of a developing talent. They express all that is implied in his translation of Goethe's "An Die Gunstigen":

All my striving and my erring
Restless living, pain incurring,
Are like flow'rets twined in wreaths.
Here's my Manhood and my Youth,
Faults and virtues too, forsooth,
Each song some message breathes.

Prof. Hrbek was succeeded by his sister, Prof. Šárka B. Hrbková, whose biography is given at the close of the chapter on publications. During the World War, when many activities were disrupted, the Department of Slavonic was abolished and Prof. Hrbková left our state in 1919.

When the State Constitutional Convention was in session (1919—1920) two members thereof, C. V. Svoboda (Howard County) and Joseph T. Votava (Douglas County), conferred with Chancellor Avery about the reinstitution of teaching of Czech. The Chancellor had no objections provided the proper teacher could be found. It was agreed to have a

conference with the other Czech delegates to this convention (Messrs. E. J. Špirk of Saline County, E. A. Coufal of Butler and Frank Maličký of Gage) with Chancellor Avery and Dean Buck. At that time the Chancellor explained that he knew the right person, Orin Štěpánek. This was satisfactory to the delegation and the Chancellor agreed to cable Mr. Štěpánek, who was in Europe at the time. Thus Prof. Štěpánek entered upon his duties in the fall of 1920, when teaching of Czech was resumed under the Department of Modern Languages. At present it is being offered under the Department of Romance Languages.

Prof. Orin Štěpánek was born in Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with Phi Beta Kappa honors in 1913. The following year he received the degree of Master of Arts at Harvard University, winning a scholarship for that year, and also in 1918, when he returned to Harvard for another year of graduate work. During the war (1914—1918) he enlisted as private in the United States Marine Corps, and was eventually stationed at the Marine Flying Field in Miami, Florida, as instructor. A year later, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, he entered General Šnejdárek's division of the Czechoslovak Army, then on the Magyar frontier in Slovakia. During the summer of 1920 he received a cablegram inviting him to the position of Assistant Professor of English in the University of Nebraska. He returned to America in the fall and after three years of teaching, having been promoted to an Associate Professorship (his present status) he returned to Czechoslovakia, to study Slavic philology at the Charles University in Prague. A year later he again took up his post in the Nebraska University, where he has taught first, second and third year courses in Czech continuously, offering

Prof. Orin Štěpánek

also correspondence courses in that language, through the Extension Department. He has given a beginning course in Russian. His courses in the Department of English are in Composition, Modern Prose Fiction and Eighteenth Century Literature.

List of Komenský Clubs

No. 1, Lincoln, Nebraska.
No. 2, South Omaha, Nebraska.
No. 3, Originally in Omaha, then given to Iowa City, Iowa.
No. 4, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
No. 5, Ames, Iowa.
No. 6, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
No. 7, Lynch, Nebraska.
No. 8, Table Rock, Nebraska.
No. 9, Humboldt, Nebraska.
No. 10, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.
No. 11, Crete, Nebraska.
No. 12, Chicago, Illinois.
No. 13, Milligan, Nebraska.
No. 14, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.
No. 15, Comstock, Nebraska.
No. 16, Ord, Nebraska.
No. 17, San Marcos, Texas.
No. 18, Clarkson, Nebraska.
No. 19, Irving, Kansas.
No. 20, Rosenberg, Texas.
No. 21, Crosby, Texas.
No. 22, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois.
No. 23, Omaha, Nebraska.
No. 24, Howell, Nebraska.
No. 25, Crete, Nebraska.
No. 26, Houston Heights, Texas.
No. 27, Fremont, Nebraska.
No. 28, Swanton, Nebraska.
No. 29, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

Thus it will be seen that these clubs, which had their inception in our state, began to spread all over the United States.

The clubs that formed the nucleus of this organization, as an association, were Clubs Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and the Association was formed in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, January 1, 1908. In August (28—30) 1914 a convention was held in Chicago, when a constitution was compiled and accepted. Charles Šmrha (a banker living now in Milligan, Nebraska) presided, Ferdinand L. Musil was secretary and Dr. Fr. J. Jirka (Chicago), Mrs. B. Měkota (Cedar Rapids, Iowa),

Frank Hrdý (Milligan, Nebr.), Václav Bureš (Omaha, Neb.) and Joseph V. Štěrba (Chicago) were on the constitution committee. The following officers were elected: Jos. V. Štěrba, Chicago, president; Miss Emily Krisl, Lincoln, Neb., vice-president; Miss Millie E. Šuster, Chicago, secretary and Ferdinand L. Musil, Chicago, treasurer.

In 1917, June 29 to July 1st, the sixth and last convention was held in Omaha, Nebraska, the following clubs being represented: Nos. 1, 2, 9, 13, 14, 23, 24, 28, — all from Nebraska except No. 14 (Texas). Mr. Joseph V. Štěrba presided, Miss Libbie Breuer (now Mrs. Harry C. Scholten of Gilroy, California) was vice-president, Misses Vlasta Štěrba and Božena Fitl, secretaries. The last publication of the Komenský Magazine was issued in December 1918, and the clubs suspended activity. Young men had to enlist, all foreign-language clubs and movements were considered more or less un-American, money ceased to come in, and with great difficulty enough was collected to pay for the last issue.

It is to be regretted that an organization of such high aims should not have flourished, but this seems to be the fate of all foreign-language efforts in this country, sooner or later. A number of clubs still are in existence, but the movement, as a whole, has lost its vigor. There is still on hand, in charge of the treasurer, the sum of $1970.00 in funds gathered for building a monument to Komenský (Jan Amos Comenius) and it is hoped that this will materialize at no far date.

Cemeteries

Like others of the earliest pioneers in any land, quite a number of our people were buried individually, on their farms, before cemeteries were established. These solitary graves, here and there, were marked by wooden crosses and fences, long fallen into decay and obliterated. The hands of those who sleep in them planted the first kernels of corn in the virgin sod, with the aid of a hatchet, and now, after comparatively a short span, the roar of the tractor and automobile resounds, as it sweeps over these forgotten graves.

Willa Cather tells of such a grave, that of the unfortunate, hapless Bohemian pioneer Shimerda, in her story "My Antonia":

"Years afterward, when the open-grazing days were over, and the red grass had been ploughed under and under until it had almost disappeared from the prairie; when all the fields were under fence, and roads no longer ran about like wild things, but followed surveyed section lines, Mr. Shimerda's grave was still there, with a sagging wire fence around it, and an unpainted wooden cross. As grandfather had predicted, Mrs. Shimerda never saw the roads go over his head. The road from the north curved a little to the east just there, and the road from the west swung out a little to the south; so that the grave, with its tall red grass that was never mowed, was like a little island; and at twilight, under a new moon or the clear evening star, the dusty roads used to look like soft gray rivers flowing past it. I never came upon the place without emotion, and in all that country it was the spot most dear to me. I loved the dim superstition, the propitiatory intent, that had put the grave there; and still more I loved the spirit that could not carry out the sentence—the error from the surveyed lines, the clemency of the soft earth roads along which the home-coming wagons rumbled after sunset. Never a tired

driver passed the wooden cross, I am sure, without wishing well to the sleeper."

Within a very few years after a settlement had established itself, cemeteries were provided. Life intertwines with death, the need for cemeteries is as pressing as for shelter. In time, as with all other material evidences in our state, they have been improved and beautified. Inasmuch as those listed here are entirely Bohemian, they will, in the future, be the only purely Bohemian records, visible to the passer-by, of our people in Nebraska. This truth was in the mind of Jeffrey Doležal Hrbek, when he wrote his poem given below, which was published in "The Pulse" in March, 1906:

THE BOHEMIAN CEMETERY

Yonder, the southward hills rise, fair,
And pleasant green fields bask in the sun.
The view is broad and lovely there,
Where the dusty road doth upward run.

On the very crown of the highest hill
Where the tallest oaks lift their arms toward God
Above the clatter and din of lathe and mill
White marbles gleam athwart the sod.

'Tis the burial ground of a foreign race,
A race from the heart of Europe sprung,
Men and women of open face
That speak in the strange Bohemian tongue.

Down in the city that gleams below
With its streets and lanes and its roofs and domes,
In its southern corner row on row
They have built their garden-bordered homes.

But here on the hill is the burial ground
Where the sainted dead in their last long sleep
'Neath many a verdant, flowery mound
The eternal watches keep.

Snowy marble and granite brown
And blooming urns of bronze and stone.
Carved and graven with cross and crown
And with soft green moss o'ergrown.

And the epitaphs and wreathed rhymes
In the Chechish tongue are writ,
That the men and women of future times
May muse and wonder a bit.

For, the dialect sweet of the pioneers old
Is giving slowly but surely way
To the plain smooth speech of the Saxon bold
The Chechish weakens day by day.

Some day these stone-carved tearful rhymes
Shall be a riddle—a puzzle—nay
Folk will doubt that in by-gone times
Many could read each tombstone's lay.

Still, here on the hill in the burial ground
The Chechish dead in their last long sleep
'Neath grass-o'rgrown, forgotten mound
The eternal watch will keep.

The first cemetery established by Czechs did not remain wholly Czech. It is called Jindra's cemetery, because it adjoins the homestead of Joseph Jindra, near Crete, Saline County. Mrs. Mary Jelínek of Crete, widow of Frank Jelínek, one of the very first pioneers there, writes:

"The day following the arrival of the first band of settlers, in November, 1865, old Mrs. Krajník died during a snow storm, as recorded in the history of Saline County. The men made a coffin out of a wagon box and buried the corpse on the bank of the Big Blue river. A few days later the three-year-old daughter of my brother-in-law Joseph Jelínek died and was buried the same way, as was the body of a Mr. Aksamit, who met death by drowning. In 1868 my grandfather died and my father-in-law, Václav Jelínek, who did not want him to be buried thus too, donated ten acres for a cemetery. By 1872 five bodies had been buried there. The settlers increased and so the members of the Reading Society (established by Joseph Jindra as recorded in the chapter on organizations) met in our home, about twenty of them, to arrange for the proper founding of the cemetery. They decided to buy forty acres from my father-in-law and contributions to the amount of $600.00 were subscribed. My father-in-law agreed to sell, provided a Czech cemetery be established. However, before a second meeting could be held, Bowlby and Fuller of Crete called and desired that a general cemetery be established, for those of any nationality, inasmuch as there was no cemetery in the vicinity. A meeting was called for the purpose of deciding this, some were pro, some con. Shares were sold at $10.00, officers elected, Bowlby was made secretary. A diptheria epidemic raged among the children at the time and quite a number of new inhabitants were added to the cemetery. During the following three or four years the cemetery was constantly used by all, but about that time Mr. Jesse C. Bickle, whose homestead is part of the site of the town of Crete, donated a portion of his land for another cemetery. He agreed to donate free lots to those who would first bury there and thus many moved there. Bowlby kept the old cemetery and rented twenty acres of it out. After

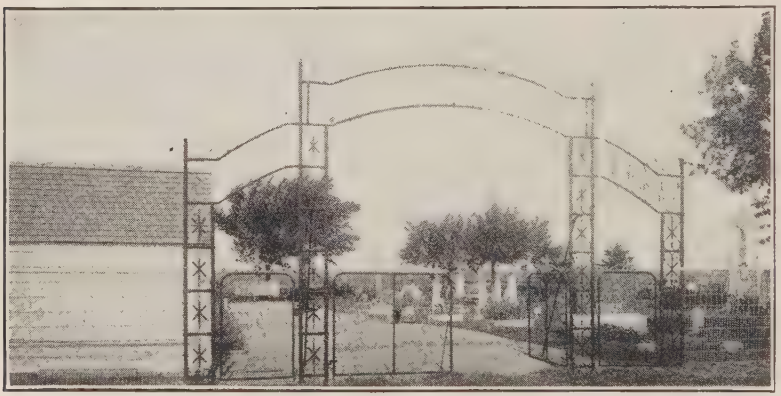
his death his sons considered it their legacy and wanted to sell the cemetery for $3000.00. In the summer of 1926 the matter was tried in court and the cemetery won. There are about a hundred people buried in this first (originally) Czech cemetery in Nebraska.

The first wholly Czech cemetery in Nebraska, called the Big Blue (also National) cemetery, was established in 1868 by the dissenting members of the Reading Society, who did not want the Jindra cemetery used for any purpose but that of a purely Czech cemetery. They bought three acres from Joseph Kopecký (Kopetzky, later a jeweler in Crete) four miles north of the present town of Wilber, at $25.00 per acre. The first body to be interred there was that of Mr. Dajč's wife, in 1869. In May, 1870, the body of John Vozáb's father was buried.

BOYD COUNTY: Lynch—A cemetery owned by Lodge Lipany No. 56, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

Spencer—Bohemian National cemetery owned by Lodge Karlín No. 40, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

BOX BUTTE COUNTY: Lawn—A Bohemian National Cemetery was established in 1890 six miles southwest of the Catholic church and



Catholic cemetery in Verdigre

cemetery in Lawn, a country postoffice now abolished. Besides this, there is a Catholic cemetery in Lawn, two-thirds Bohemian. Frank Procházka donated ten acres. Many Czechs are buried in Hemingford, in a non-Czech cemetery.

BUFFALO COUNTY:—A Bohemian National cemetery was established in 1884, in Schneider township, twelve miles south and two miles east of Ravenna, by Frank Skočdopole, V. Vokoun, M. Skala, V. Polka and Václav Hervert. In the late nineties it was changed into a Catholic cemetery and in 1912 the church of St. Wenceslaus was erected there.

BUTLER COUNTY: Abie—Two cemeteries, a Bohemian National and a Catholic.

Appleton—(Postoffice David City)—A Catholic cemetery.

Brainard—A Bohemian National and a Catholic cemetery. The latter was established in 1886 on two acres of ground. It has now a very fine entrance and a handsome bronze cross.

Bruno—A Bohemian National and a Catholic cemetery.

Dwight—A Catholic cemetery.

Linwood—A Bohemian National and a Catholic cemetery.

Loma—A Catholic cemetery.

CHEYENNE COUNTY—Bohemian-Slavonian cemetery, five miles in area, situated in Sec. 29, Township 13, Range 48, southwest corner, six miles south of Sunol and eleven miles southwest of Lodgepole. Established in 1900 and at first rather neglected. Later Anton Henžil, Adam Schimka and Václav Vacík effected improvements and had the cemetery fenced, which cost $300.00. For this purpose the contributions amounted to $420.00, so that $120.00 was left as a surplus fund. In 1914 the three men mentioned had the cemetery recorded in the court house records.

COLFAX COUNTY: Clarkson—A Bohemian Slavonian cemetery, established October 7, 1888, through the efforts of the lodge Západní Svornost No. 147, Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society (now Western Bohemian Fraternal Association). Adjoining this, so that it is one burial ground, divided in two halves, one for non-Catholics, the other for Catholics, is the Bohemian Catholic cemetery, established in 1903 by the parish of Ss. Cyril and Methodius.

Nine miles southeast of Clarkson is a cemetery established by the Svobodná Obec (Liberal Thinkers' League) and called by that name, established in 1897 by a club of that League, on Joseph Soušek's land, in Midland Precinct. Well kept, ornamented by evergreen trees.

Half a mile west of Howell is the Bohemian National Cemetery, established in 1912.

One mile north of Howell is a Catholic cemetery, on boundary line of Stanton County. Established in 1893 and Bohemians in Stanton County bury there.

Six miles southeast of Howell is the Catholic cemetery and church Tábor. The cemetery was established in 1880, on land donated by Joseph Šindelář.

Nine miles southwest of Howell is the so-called Heun cemetery, belonging to the Holy Trinity church, in Midland Precinct, established about 1879.

Four miles south of the Heun cemetery is the so-called Dry Creek Catholic cemetery, adjoining the church. It was established February 12, 1876, in a meeting called to the home of John Kovář, who donated five acres for the purpose. The founders were: John Kovář, Frank Polák, Martin Svačina, Jacob Krula, Matěj Dobrý, Václav Sudík, Felix Ševčík, Joseph Valenta, Joseph Křenek, Martin Palík, John Voborník and Joseph Houfek. The following were elected trustees: John Kovář, Matěj Dobrý and Václav Sudík. Later the following joined the association: Joseph Hájek, Karel Beneš, Joseph Říha, Frank Dvořák, Frank Čech, John Nožička, John Dvořák, Joseph Krejčí, Joseph Coufal, John Zahradníček, Cyril Kůžel, Martin Rygel, Anton Votava, Jacob Mareš,

Public monument erected to John Rosický by members of Western Bohemian Fraternal Association and other friends.
In Bohemian National Cemetery, Omaha.

Frank Roupetz. In 1879, when the members began to divide as to religion (Catholic and non-Catholic) dissension arose. When the church was built in 1881 a struggle about the cemetery ensued, but the Catholics had a majority and it was decided that all who did not belong to the church lost membership in the cemetery association. It is interesting to note that even the donor of the land fell under this ruling. The first to be buried there was the child of John Voborník, then the children of Dvořák, Rubeš, Kovář, Sudík and Zmotaný.

Twelve miles southwest of Clarkson is the so-called Wilson cemetery, Catholic, in Wilson Precinct, established in 1888 on Mrázek's land and belonging to the church there, Blessed Virgin Mary of Perpetual Help.

Six miles southeast of Clarkson is the Protestant cemetery, belonging to the church called Sion. Established in 1875 in Adams Precinct, on land donated by Joseph Šmatlan.

About 1885 a cemetery was established on **land of Frank Tejkl** (southwest quarter of Sec. 8, Township 19, Range 3, Midland Precinct). About seventeen bodies were interred there, but as other cemeteries were established, they were removed. This cemetery was about seven miles south of Clarkson.

CUMING COUNTY:—Five miles from the Dodge County boundary is a Catholic cemetery, established in 1883, and used mostly by those living in Dodge County.

DODGE COUNTY:—A Catholic cemetery in the town. Near Dodge is the Bohemian National cemetery, established mainly through the efforts of the local Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society lodge (now Western Bohemian Fraternal Association), on April 22, 1883, with the following founders: W. F. Kříž, Václav Luxa, Anton Bartoš, Joseph Brázda, John Studnička, Frank Srb, Anton Kadleček, Alois Pospíšil, Joseph Dolejš, Frank Bělina, Ignác Skala, Joseph Srb, Frank Bartoš. Anton Bartoš donated the land and in 1884 a community hall was built, in which was placed a library. Later this library was consolidated with that of the Těl. Jed. Sokol in Dodge. The building (formerly the community hall) is used for office purposes and the cemetery kept in good condition.

DOUGLAS COUNTY: Omaha—The Bohemian National cemetery, situated at 54th and Center streets, was incorporated April 25, 1883, by the following members: Václav Jablečník, Václav Vančura, Frank Kašpar, F. R. Chrastil, John Rosický, Joseph Klofát, J. J. Smrž, Frank Jelen, Joseph Kavan, Frank Pivoňka, Václav Fiala, John Svačina, Fr. Pýcha, Frank Šalda and V. L. Vodička. Ten acres were bought for $800.00. For a long time this cemetery remained in a not very improved condition, for lots were sold at first at $10.00 apiece, consequently there were no funds for betterment. Of late, however, notable improvements were instituted, so that with the flowers and trees and many beautiful monuments, the cemetery is attractive. In 1924 a brick building was erected, the front part being used for a waiting room and columbarium for urns, the rear for the caretaker's home. Sewer and grading work also was done, all costing $7,214.31. In 1925 further improvements were made, fence, piers, walks, enlarged driveway and installation of a city water system. It is in this cemetery

that the public monument, dedicated to John Rosický, was erected by his friends and admirers, mostly members of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. It is of granite, surmounted by his bust in bronze.

FILLMORE COUNTY:—A cemetery called Bohemian Brethren (Českých Bratří) was established May 4, 1878, a mile and a half northwest of Milligan. In 1881, October 22, The Glengary Cemetery Society acquired the site. There were then a number of graves there, but the original settlers had moved away, and the title was passed to Lodge Rábí, (Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) and Těl. Jed. Sokol in Milligan, June 21, 1897, and is now owned by them jointly

GAGE COUNTY:—A Bohemian National cemetery near Odell.

HAYES COUNTY:—A Catholic cemetery, established in 1889, adjoining the church built there in 1890, in Sec. 19, Township 6, Range 32,

Catholic cemetery in Warsaw, near St. Paul

southeast quarter. In 1891 a Bohemian National cemetery was established in southwest quarter of Sec. 20.

HOLT COUNTY:—In 1884 a non-Catholic cemetery was established and Frank Zahradníček (twenty-two-years old) and two small children were buried there. Later a Catholic church and cemetery were established in Atkinson and the children's bodies removed there, so Frank was left sole occupant.

HOWARD COUNTY:—The death of Anton Francl's child in the fall of 1876 revealed the immediate necessity of a cemetery for the pioneers of the Czech colony Slovania established in Howard County

the previous year. A meeting was called, a temporary cemetery association organized and a cemetery located on a plot of two acres of ground in the n. w. quarter Sec. 10, Township 14, Range 11, donated for the purpose by Martin Slobodný, one of the pioneers. This was called the St. Wenceslaus Bohemian Catholic cemetery of Warsaw. The name Warsaw was attached because a postoffice of that name was located on the southeast quarter of the same section and the section was a part of the Warsaw Precinct. The majority of the pioneers of this Bohemian settlement are buried in this cemetery. It has been very much improved and beautified this year (1926) largely through the efforts of C. V. Svoboda, so that now it is one of the best-kept rural cemeteries in that section of the country.

The Bohemian Naional cemetery was located March 6, 1882, on a two-acre plot of ground in the n. w. quarter of Sec. 28, Township 15, Range 11, acquired for non-Catholic Bohemians from John Pokorný by Louis Moravec, Charles Kotík and others.

KNOX COUNTY:—A Catholic cemetery west of Verdigre, established in 1873, on land donated by John Beran, being west quarter of south west quarter of Sec. 5, **Verdigre Township.** A child of J. Maštalíř was the first to be buried, in 1874. Platted and recorded in 1877.

Bohemian National cemetery, established by Lodge Bílá Hora No. 5, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, situated in northwest quarter Sec. 28, **Sparta Township,** established in 1881.

A cemetery in southeast quarter of north-east quarter Sec. 28, **Western Township.**

A cemetery in northeast quarter Sec. 26, **near Pishelville, Western Township,** established by Lodge Sladkovský No. 8, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, in 1886. Frank Veselý donated the land.

A cemetery in northwest quarter of southwest quarter Sec. 33, **Bohemian Township, near Jelen.** Established March 20, 1893.

PAWNEE COUNTY:—A Bohemian-Slavonian cemetery two miles east of Table Rock, established in 1877 and directed by a cemetery association, whose charter members were: Vojtěch Hubka, Václav Frič, Frank Kovanda, Frank Raitera, Vojtěch Kovanda, John Dufek, Joseph Verner, Joseph Kalous, Václav Kovanda, Daniel Hlavatý.

PIERCE COUNTY:—In 1885, when the Catholic parish was founded, Matěj Havel gave an acre of ground **a mile west of Pierce.** He conducted funeral services there and in the homes, in emergencies, when a priest was not available. Later this became a mixed German-Bohemian parish.

RICHARDSON COUNTY:—A cemetery five miles southwest of Humboldt, established in 1880.

SALINE COUNTY:—Although this county is most heavily settled by our people, there are only two purely Czech cemeteries there. The first (originally) Czech cemetery in our state is the so-called Jindra cemetery near Crete. It did not remain wholly Czech. The first wholly Czech cemetery in our state is here also, the Big Blue or National cemetery, four miles north of Wilber. Data about both of these are recorded in the beginning of this chapter.

The Bohemian-Slavonian cemetery in Wilber is noted for its fine appearance. Frank Rejcha, the present secretary, has furnished the following information: On February 16, 1874, a meeting was called in Wilber, for the purpose of founding a cemetery. Sixty-one members enrolled and each agreed to pay $4.75, in payments, as a fee. Joseph Kobes agreed to sell forty acres of school land that he had taken in Sec. 16. The first payment per member was 70 cents each, to get together the amount which Kobes had had to pay as first payment on the land. The association borrowed money to purchase the land and this debt was paid off in time. Joseph Kobes was elected president, Joseph Prokeš secretary; Frank Štěpánek treasurer, Frank Tichý and Jacob Kobes trustees and Andreas Řežábek caretaker. Ten acres in the southwest corner were set aside for cemetery purposes, the rest "broken". All members who broke ground with a team for one day received a lot free, otherwise the cost was $5.00. Frank Seidl, a blacksmith, wanted a lot, but had no team or money. He offered to sharpen plowshares gratis for those who did the breaking and thereby received a lot. We make note of this just to show how difficult it was for pioneers to get a little money, so scarce in those days. The first body to be

Bohemian-Slavonian cemetery in Wilber

interred there was that of Joseph Karas, a ten-year-old boy, March 10, 1874, and in that year also were buried the bodies of Anna Schleis, George Parker and Helen Pivoňka. In 1875 the cemetery was surveyed into lots. In 1876 Joseph Kobes rented the cultivated portion for $1.50 per acre. In 1886 the first fence (of wood) was put up. In 1887 the first Decoration Day was observed, although it was commemorated July 6, the anniversary of the burning of John Hus. This was repeated the following year, by which time Congress had set aside May 30 for this memorial and it was observed on that day thereafter. In 1888 dissension occurred. Some members wanted part of the cemetery to be set aside for the Catholics, but F. J. Sadílek and others succeeded in averting a disruption. In 1890 a building costing $102.50 was erected and a well 102 feet deep made. That year fire destroyed this building and a subscription was made to erect another. In 1891 a vandal knocked over and damaged a number of monuments and although the Association offered $50.00 reward for his apprehension, he was never found. In 1892 a windmill was purchased and in that year the first trees were planted. In 1911 a cement walk costing $2,415.00 and leading from the city limits to the cemetery was laid, a distance of one and a fourth miles. Joseph Rychtařík donated $50.00 and a strip of land for the

purpose. Others subscribed to the amount of $1,600.00, the rest was paid by the Association. In 1919 an ornamental fence was erected at a cost of $2,821.05, the whole matter being under the supervision of secretary Rejcha. The Association established a fund for perpetual care. F. J. Sadílek, a Wilber pioneer, who as a non-sectarian speaker has officiated at more funerals of Czechs throughout our state than any other, naturally has thus served more of his townspeople, buried in this cemetery. Martin Janeček has taken care of the beautiful trees, and Frank Rejcha, who became secretary in 1916, undertook the Herculean task of making a complete record, dates of deaths, etc., of all buried here. This had never been done before. One side of the entrance gate bears the following inscription: "What you are, we were." On the other side: "What we are, you will be."

SAUNDERS COUNTY: Cedar Hill—A Catholic cemetery, two miles south and two miles west of Morse Bluffs, being the northwest quarter of southwest quarter of Sec. 36, Township 17, Range 5. Established when the church was built. J. F. Coltan, father of Mrs. Noteware, donated the land.

Morse Bluffs—Bohemian-Slavonian cemetery three miles west and half a mile south of Morse Bluffs, in northwest quarter, Sec. 23, Township 17, Range 5. Established about 1875.

Prague—Bohemian National cemetery. In 1888, one year after Prague was founded, Lodge Vladislav I No. 147 of the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society (now Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) established a cemetery. Václav Kašpar offered to sell one acre of land for $25.00, in the northwest corner of his forty adjoining the town on the east. This was accepted and the cemetery fenced. The first to be buried there were Karel Svoboda and Miss Mary Bělík. In 1900 four additional acres were bought of Václav Kašpar, at $50.00 per acre and the wooden fence replaced by one of wire and iron(enclosing two acres). The amount $312.76 was collected from individual subscriptions and proceeds of entertainments. Václav Kašpar donated the entrance, costing $50.00. Anton Kašpar, who with John Kašpar surveyed and staked out the first lots (16x16), made the first plan and plat. In 1903 the county surveyor surveyed the second acre into lots 12x16. In 1901 the first Decoration Day exercises were held, with Rev. John Pípal as speaker. In 1903 the second, with John Rosický of Omaha as speaker and since that time they have been held annually, always with a visiting Czech speaker. In 1922 the sixth acre was bought for $400.00 and a cement walk, four feet wide, laid across the whole cemetery, at a cost of $925.00. The cemetery is situated on an elevation, so water is hard to get. Therefore a deep cistern was dug next to the chapel, which is 26x26, and sufficient water runs off the roof to provide enough for the summer's needs. This cost $500.00 and was defrayed by contributions from non-Catholic lodges. Evergreen trees, flowers and fine monuments, together with good care, make the cemetery a pretty spot.

Catholics bury in the **Plasi Catholic cemetery**, established 1887. Prior to that they buried in Jambor's field.

Three miles west of Prague is the **Protestant** cemetery, situated on a 40-acre farm owned by the Presbyterian church.

WAHOO:—Two miles from Wahoo is a Protestant cemetery on a 40-acre farm, owned by the Presbyterian church.

SEWARD COUNTY: Bee—A Catholic cemetery belonging to the church.

SHERIDAN COUNTY:—A Bohemian National cemetery north of Rushville.

SHERMAN COUNTY:—A Bohemian National cemetery three miles north and three-fourths of a mile west of Ravenna, established in 1882, on John Horák's farm, by: Frank Fiala, Joseph Březina, Paul Miller, Václav Nový, John and Frank Helebrant, Václav and Vincent Kutička.

STANTON COUNTY:—Catholics use the cemetery in Colfax County, one mile distant from Howell.

VALLEY COUNTY:— A Catholic cemetery in **Geranium (Netolice)** Township, ten miles from Ord, established January 3, 1881, by: John W. Beran, Joseph Ptáčník, John Princ, Joseph Novotný, John Parkos, John Jarovský, Václav Holoun, Jacob Kosmata, Kazimierz Rakovský (a Pole), Michal Bauer (a Pole), Václav Studlar, Vojtěch Hošek, Václav Mottl, John Vališ, Joseph Novotný, Matěj Fajman, Karel Česák, Joseph Šesták, John Hefferman, Joseph Valášek, Vojtěch Parkos and Frank Šajnost.

Bohemian National cemetery in **Geranium Township,** thirteen miles west of Ord, established in 1897 on land bought from Joseph Kosmata. The first officers were: Ignác Klíma president, Joseph Kosmata secretary, and Karel Černík treasurer.

A Protestant cemetery in **Eureka Township,** established April 11, 1889, about sixteen miles from Ord, by: Paul Žurek, John Ševčík, John Čech Sr., John Čech Jr., Francis Peňaz, John Nedbálek, Joseph Rejda, Joseph Bartu, Karel Černík, John Ceplecha.

Bohemian National cemetery on ten acres, **a mile southwest of Ord.** Established December 7, 1889, by members of Lodge Dennice No. 14, Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society (Now Western Bohemian Fraternal Association), which gave $150.00 to buy the site. On September 23, 1915, the Association decided to acquire a better location, therefore six acres of level land were bought one mile north of Ord, for $1,200.00, and all those interred were removed. John Beran was president from the beginning until his death in 1917, and Frank Miško secretary from the beginning until 1925. The following were members: John Beran, John Zabloudil, John Koupal, John Ševčík, John Voborník, Fr. Miško, F. J. Dvořák, Frank Bárta, Joseph Černý, Joseph Slavíček, Anton Stára, V. H. Šesták, Václav Hvězda (Wizda).

Postoffice or Railroad Stations Bearing Czech Names

(Many were discontinued when rural mail delivery was instituted.)

Bruno, Butler County. Named for capital of Moravia (Brno), inasmuch as many came from Moravia. The railroad company later changed the name to Bruno, as more pronounceable.

Butka, Rock County. Established by Frank J. Budka, who later moved to Boyd County; then to Montana, where he died.

Cloudy, Cuming County. Named for Frank Klojda, a prominent pioneer. Americans called him Cloudy.

Jelen, Knox County. Named for Anton Jelen, a pioneer.

Kewanda, Garden County. Established by a German of that name, which is of Czech origin.

Nimburg, Butler County. Named for Nymburk, a town in Bohemia. Established in 1887 on farms of V. Marušák and John Pavel.

Pishelville, Knox County. Named for Anton Pishel, a pioneer.

Plasi, Saunders County. Named for Plasy, a town in Bohemia.

Prague, Saunders County. Named for the capital city of Bohemia. (In Czech, Praha, in English, Prague.)

Praha, Colfax County. Established by John F. Sobota, a pioneer. Named for the capital city of Bohemia.

Sedlov, Valley County. Established by John Beran. Named for a city in Bohemia.

Shebesta, Rock County. Named for a Czech homesteader, Charles Shebesta. (Šebesta.)

Shestak, Saline County. Named for Václav Shesták (Šesták) a pioneer.

Trocnov, Buffalo County. Named for birthplace of the famous Hussite warrior John Žižka, when Lodge Žižkův Palcát 125 C. S. P. S. was established. In a year or two changed to Nantasket.

Netolice, (Valley County), Loučky (Clay County), Tábor (Colfax County) and Tasov (Hayes County) are rural churches, not stations.

Political Activity

It can be said that the majority of Czechs are Democrats, in spite of the fact that the Pokrok Západu, the pioneer and leading paper for many years, was republican. Saline County for a long time was republican by majority, but is not so now. As would be natural, Czechs hold many offices in counties heavily settled by them, but for our purpose a list of those who have filled state and county offices will suffice to show that they perform their duty as citizens. Of the minor offices it would be impossible to get a complete record. A list of appointive offices is also given, and we feel this is incomplete, for no concentrated records are available and so only the memory of the author must serve. However, it is something in that direction, at least. The records are not always clear as to whether the office-holder in question was a democrat or republican. We have recorded all as well as we could.

SENATE:

1887—Čeněk Duras, Saline County, Republican.
1909 and 1911—Frank W. Bartoš, Saline County, Democrat.
1911 and 1913—E. E. Placek, Saunders County, Democrat.
1913, 1915 and 1917—E. J. Špirk, Saline County, Republican.
1921—Louis Berka, Douglas County, Republican.
1923 and 1927—Charles Šmrha, Fillmore County, Democrat.
1923—Philip A. Tomek, Butler County, Democrat.
1925—Frank Doležal, Saunders County, Democrat.
1927—Lad. V. Tesař, Douglas County, Democrat.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1871—Edward Rosewater, Douglas County, Republican.
1875—Frank Folda, Colfax County, Democrat.
1879—Henry A. Fisher, Saunders County, Greenback.
1881—Stephen J. Heřman, Saline County, Independent.
1883—Frank J. Sadílek, Saline County, Antimonopoly.
1885—Joseph Jindra, Saline County, Republican.
1887—Thomas Šimánek, Saunders County, Democrat.
1889—William J. Boháček, Saline County, Republican.
1891—Stephen J. Heřman, Saline County, Independent.
1891—Thomas Čapek, Douglas County, Democrat.
1895—James Havlík, Saunders County, People's Independent.
1899—Joseph G. Dobrý, Colfax County, Fusionist.
1901—Václav Bureš, Douglas County, Republican.
1903—J. J. Vlasák, Saunders County, Fusionist.
1903—Joseph G. Dobrý, Colfax County, Fusionist.

J. A. Hospodský (Saline county) — Fr. Říha (Douglas county), Otto Kotouč (Richardson county) — J. D. Hasík (Butler county), F. W. Bartoš (Saline county) — Fr. Doležal (Saunders county), E. E. Plaček (Saunders county) — Josef Dostál (Butler county), J. B. Šindelář (Colfax county) — Anton Sägl (Saline county)

A group of Czech members of the Nebraska State legislature of 1911

1905—Frank J. Fitl, Douglas County, Republican.
1905—John J. Pospíšil, Saunders County, Republican.
1907—Frank Rejcha, Lancaster County, Republican.
1907—Frank Vopálenský, Saunders County, People's Independent.
1909—Joseph P. Kraus, Douglas County, Democrat.
1909 and 1911—Frank Doležal, Saunders County, People's Independent.
1909 and 1911—Joseph Dostál, Butler County, Democrat.
1909—John Chab, Saline County, Democrat.
1909 and 1911—John A. Hospodský, Saline County, People's and Dem.
1909 and 1911—Otto Kotouč, Richardson County, Democrat.
1911, 1913, 1915 and 1917—J. B. Šindelář, Colfax County, Democrat.
1911 and 1913—John D. Hasík, Butler County, Republican.
1911—Anton Ságl, Saline County, Democrat and People's Independent.
1911—Frank J. Říha, Douglas County, Democrat.
1915—C. F. Hynek, Saline County, Democrat.
1917—J. J. Jelen, Douglas County, Democrat.
1919—Louis Berka, Douglas County, Republican.
1919 and 1923—Thomas Stibal, Colfax County.
1923—Charles Kautský, Douglas County.
1923—C. V. Svoboda, Howard County, Democrat.
1925—Walter Kořisko, Douglas County, Republican.
1925—Lad. V. Tesař, Douglas County, Democrat.
1927—Leo. L. Miškovský, Douglas County, Republican.
1927—John J. Buresh, Douglas County, Republican.
1927—Jos. C. Wolf, Douglas County, Republican.

MEMBERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
1919—1920

C. V. Svoboda, Howard County; Joseph T. Votava, Douglas County; Frank Maličký, Gage County; E. A. Coufal, Butler County and E. J. Špirk, Saline County.

COUNTY OFFICEHOLDERS

Boyd County

Elected:
1925—1927—C. J. Tomek, County Treasurer.

Box Butte County

1905—1907—Frank Caha, County Commissioner.
1912—1918—J. M. Waněk, County Commissioner.
1913—1919—John Jelínek, County Assessor.

Butler County

1896—1905—Louis Straka, Clerk of District Court.
1902—1906 and again 1915—1927—M. J. Bouše, County Clerk.
1902—1904—Anton Ptáček, County Treasurer.
1904—1909—Jos. C. Hruška, Superintendent of Public Instruction.
1907—1911—L. J. Coufal, County Treasurer.
1909—1915—Edward A. Coufal, County Judge.
1909—1915—F. A. Štěch, Superintendent of Public Instruction.
1911—1921—Joseph C. Havel, Clerk of District Court.
1911—1915—Edward T. Rech, County Assessor.
1917—1923—Philip A. Toměk, County Treasurer.
1923—1927—F. H. Mizera, County Attorney.

The following have served as members of the County Board: John Šonka, M. A. Mašek, Joseph Dostál, Anton Proškovec, George Fleming (Kožíšek), Fr. J. Maixner, L. J. Coufal, John Kříž, Thos. Duda, and Edward T. Rech.

Cass County

Elected:
1916—1917—Frank Liebershal, County Clerk.

Cheyenne County

1925—Henry Pavlat, County Clerk.

Colfax County

1876—1880—Joseph Dvořák, County Clerk.
1880—1884—John Lapache (Lapáček), County Clerk.
1882— Thomas Vrba, County Commissioner.
1884—1888—John Lapache (Lapáček), County Treasurer.
1888—1892—John Novotný, County Treasurer.
1886—1890—Joseph Kudrna, County Sheriff.
1892—1896—M. F. Bednář, County Treasurer.
1894—1898—Frank W. Shonka, County Clerk and Reg. of Deeds.
1898—1899—Frank Hrubecký, County Commissioner.
1898—1902—Frank Cuba, County Judge.
1900—1908—Frank Sucha, Clerk of District Court.
1900—1904—Frank W. Shonka, County Treasurer.
1902—1906—James A. Fiala, County Sheriff.
1904—1908—John Chleboun, Superintendent of Schools.
1905—1907—J. B. Šindelář, County Assessor.
1905— R. B. Folda, County Commissioner.
1908—1912—R. B. Folda, County Commissioner.
1908—1912—M. F. Shonka, County Clerk.
1908—1926—F. J. Vogltance, Superintendent of Schools.
1910— J. E. Černý (Cherney), County Judge.
1910—1924—Adolph Fiala, County Judge.
1910—1912—Anton Kašpar, County Sheriff.
1911— Václav Malý, County Commissioner.
1912—1917—M. F. Shonka, County Treasurer.
1912—1917—Ed. F. Vrzal, County Clerk and Register of Deeds.
1914—1916—Frank Prokeš, County Commissioner.
1914—1919—Joseph Bartuněk, County Sheriff.
1914—1918—F. K. Šindelář, County Commissioner.
1918—1922—Walter B. Sadílek, County Attorney.
1918—1926—John Moural, County Commissioner.
1919—1920—Ed. H. Vrána, County Surveyor.
1920—1924—A. C. Fajman, County Commissioner.
1922—1926—Joseph Sedláček, County Treasurer.
1922—1926—Jerry E. Severyn, County Clerk.
1924—1926—Frank Houfek Jr., County Commissioner.

Cuming County

1869—Frank Klojda, County Assessor. (No politics recorded in those days.)
1873—Florian John Wiesner, County Coroner.
1875—Joseph Březina Jr., County Coroner.

1879—Frank Wlna (Vlna) was elected Clerk of District Court, but did not serve, inasmuch as the court declared that the office was not separate from that of County Clerk in counties having less than the stipulated population.
1893—1897—Joseph F. Zajíček, County Treasurer.
1898—1903—A. F. Walla, County Clerk.
1898—1911—J. C. Pinkner, Clerk of District Court.
1906— Joseph Pekárek, County Commissioner.
1911—1915—Otto H. Žáček, County Commissioner.
1914—1926—Rudolph Brázda, County Clerk and Register of Deeds.

All were Democrats, except Klojda.

Douglas County

Charles H. Kubát was elected County Commissioner in 1922 and still serving. Mr. Kubát was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, graduated from the Law Department of the University of Michigan in 1894 and came to Omaha, where he began to practice. In 1902 and 1903 he was Justice of the Peace and again in 1915 and 1916. In 1918—1922 he was Assistant County Attorney.

John Briggs (Brich) became County Commissioner also in 1922 and is still serving. Formerly police captain in South Omaha.

Omaha

As stated elsewhere, Czechs in this county live altogether in Greater Omaha, therefore we give a list of their offices in that city, as a representation.

It may be interesting to note that the very first officeholders were policemen. Matěj Nerad was appointed in 1875, Frank Jelen in 1877, Frank Kašpar in 1878, Joseph Vaňous in in 1880, Frank Máca in 1882 and Václav Kubec in 1883. Joseph Michal was appointed mail carrier in 1876, when Omaha had but eight. About that time Václav Jablečník and Jiří (George) Hoffman also carried mail.

Louis Berka

Frank J. Kašpar, Republican, Councilman, 1885—1890, and Street Commissioner, 1892—1895.

Anton Kment, Councilman, 1895—1897.

Louis Berka, born April 28, 1855, in Cetoraz, Pacov, Bohemia. He came to Milwaukee with his parents in 1862 and the next year moved to a farm in Genesee County, Michigan. In 1880 he entered Ann Arbor and after graduating came to Omaha, in 1883. During 1886 and part of 1887 he was Justice of the Peace, and Police Judge from May, 1887, to January, 1890, January, 1892, to January, 1896, and January, 1902, to January, 1906. In 1919 he was member of the House of Representatives, Councilman of Omaha 1909—1912, and State Senator in 1921.

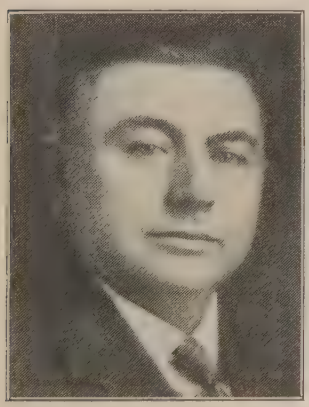
Jos. W. Koutský was elected City Commissioner (said office superseding Councilman) in 1921 for three years, re-elected in 1924, and again in 1927. Has a very fine record as superintendent of public improvements.

Frank A. Bandhauer served two terms as member of Board of Education, January, 1894, to December, 1899. Born in Florisant, Mo., August 15, 1855, died in Omaha, December 28, 1911.

Emil Čermák was member of Board of Education from January, 1902, to December, 1904. Born in 1866 in Jimamrov, Moravia.

R. V. Miškovský was Police Commissioner (Republican) in 1901. Born in Kutná Hora, Bohemia, September 18, 1863.

Dr. F. A. Sedláček served in 1912 as a member of the Omaha Welfare Board. In June, 1914, he was appointed by Governor Moorhead a member of the Nebraska State Pardon Board, from which office he resigned in March, 1919, when he became a member of the Siberian Czechoslovak Commission of the American Red Cross. This Commission was comprised of twenty physicians, twenty nurses, twenty assistant nurses, four druggists, five dentists and several engineers, and was sent to aid the Czechoslovak soldiers in Siberia. The following Czech physicians participated: Drs. J. Rudiš-Jičinský, J. Čepelka, V. Anýž, and Dr. Georgia Dvořák-Theobald of Chicago and Dr. Sedláček of Omaha. The Commission sailed March 25, 1919, from San Francisco for Honolulu, then via China, Korea, Manchuria and Japan to Vladivostok. In June, 1919, Dr. Sedláček was one of a staff of physicians who accompanied 2,060 Czech invalids, officers and men, from San Diego, Cal., to Bohemia. For his services he received a medal from the Czechoslovak government. In August, 1921, Dr. Sedláček was appointed Assistant City Physician of Omaha, which office he now holds. In 1922 he was made Captain of the Medical Reserve Corps of the U. S. Army. He is a member of San Mihiel Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Born September 26, 1865, in Vodňany, Bohemia, where he attended school, then in Prague and Mladá Boleslav. In 1890 he was associate editor of Hlas Národa in Prague, in 1891 he assisted editor Hepřík as reporter for the Parliament in Vienna. In 1892 he entered the medical faculty of the Vienna University and in 1894 came to Chicago, Ill. In 1897 he graduated from the medical school of the Illinois University. In April, 1897, he married Miss Anna Gertner and moved to Tyndall, South Dakota, where he practiced medicine until his removal to Omaha, in November, 1908.



Jos. W. Koutský

Charles Sadílek was nominated for governor of Nebraska in 1896, by the Socialist Party. Mr. Sadílek, brother of F. J. Sadílek of Wilber, was born September 11, 1857, in Ledeč Czechoslovakia. As a nine-year-old boy he witnessed some horrors of military conflict, for the

war between Austria and Prussia occurred in 1866 and much of the fighting was done in Czechoslovakia. Even as a small boy he rebelled against the settling of disputes by brutal force. In 1868 with his parents he emigrated to Chicago, Illinois, where for several years he attended public school. In 1873 he visited New York and later travelled through Michigan and Wisconsin, having in the meantime taken up the trade of house painting. In 1874 he came to Omaha, then a city of about 20,000 inhabitants. Later he went to Denver and then to California with an emigrant train, the trip lasting eight days. The time of year was February and when crossing the Sierras the heavy snow necessitated the use of three locomotives. On the third day after his arrival in San Francisco Mr. Sadílek had the misfortune to fall down three stories, but escaped with a broken arm and a bruised body. The sight of ships sailing in and out of the harbor impelled him to enlist in the U. S. navy and he was put aboard the U. S. S. Saranac, an old-style wooden ship carrying fifteen guns. The next day he sailed for La Pax, Mexico, where the vessel was to help protect mining interests of American capitalists. A month later the Saranac was sent to California, but at once ordered back to Acupulco, where natives had killed eleven Americans attending services in a Protestant church. Upon his return to San Francisco they were ordered to Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, to obtain natives and curios for the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia (1876). They sailed June 8, 1875, for Sitka through what is called the Inside Passage, a much shorter route than the open ocean, but also much more dangerous. Against the advice of the pilot the captain set out at a time when the "Seymour Narrows" would be reached at low tide and as a consequence the ship was wrecked on the rocks submerged in the channel. After four days spent in life boats, in a drizzling rain, they were rescued and brought to Victoria, Vancouver Island, and from there sent to the United States. Mr. Sadílek then returned to Chicago and later to Omaha, where he became a member of a surveying exposition that worked in the western country. Soon after that he married Miss Mary Šabata, daughter of a Saline County pioneer. Their union was blessed by a daughter, Mrs. Helen Sadílek Kyhl, who became a pianist and whose biography is given among those of other Nebraska artists. Mr. Sadílek always took a prominent part in labor affairs in Omaha, where he has lived for many years. He wrote a booklet "The Problem of Labor" and articles for magazines. In 1928 he visited his native land, after an absence of sixty years.

South Omaha

Frank Koutský, born in Saunders County of parents who were pioneers there, was Councilman, 1892—1894, City Treasurer, 1900—1902, and Mayor, 1902—1908, on the Republican ticket.

J. J. Malý was City Clerk, Democrat, elected April 4, 1894.
F. F. Fanferlík, Councilman, Democrat, 1898.
F. J. Fitl, Councilman, Republican, 1899.
Joseph Dvořák, Councilman, April 1, 1900.
Frank Dvořák, Councilman, April 5, 1904, and again April 7, 1908.
Joseph Vocásek, Councilman, April 3, 1906.
John C. Říha, Councilman, elected 1910 and again 1912 and 1915.
John Franěk, Councilman, elected 1910.

J. C. Váňa, Councilman, Republican, elected April 2, 1912.
F. G. Ficenec, Member of School Board, Democrat, 1899.
J. L. Kubát, Member of School Board, Republican, 1901.
Rudolph Yechout, Member of School Board, 1908—1912; President of the Board in 1910 and 1911.

Bohumír Horáček, Member of School Board, 1908—1912.
In 1912 South Omaha was made part of Omaha.
Joseph Pivoňka was Police Commissioner, Democrat, elected April 2, 1912.

Year elected:

Fillmore County

1887—A. Vincent Dvořák, Clerk of District Court.
1891—Anton V. Kouba, County Supervisor.
1892—Paul Anton, County Supervisor.
1893—James Krisl, County Supervisor.
1895—A. J. Barber (right name Kotalínek, adopted by J. K. Barber), County Supervisor.
1896—A. A. Hamouz, County Supervisor.
1896—Frank Plaček, County Supervisor.
1897—Charles Šmrha, Clerk of County Court.
1897—V. V. Šmrha, Clerk of County Court.
1901—A. J. Barber, County Clerk.
1901—Charles Šmrha, County Superintendent.
1904—Henry Kolář, County Supervisor.
1907—C. G. Hrubeský, County Surveyor.
1908—Frank Štech, County Supervisor.
1915—W. A. Bíba, County Surveyor.
1919—W. H. Šisler, County Clerk and Registrar of Deeds.

Franklin County

C. R. Štasenka, Attorney.

Grant County

1909—J. C. Březina, County Surveyor.

Hall County

1880—Joseph Kilian, Sheriff.

Hamilton County

1906—George Waněk, County Treasurer.

Holt County

1911—Anton Průša, County Commissioner.

Hooker County

1925—John Kudrna, County Treasurer.

Howard County

1893—1897—C. V. Svoboda, County Clerk and Reg. of Deeds, Populist.
1897—1900—Thomas Lahowetz (Lahovec), County Sheriff, Rep.
1899—1900—Frank Polanský, County Clerk, Republican.
1909—1912—John J. Sazama, County Clerk and Reg. of Deeds, Dem.
1913—1918—K. D. Bahenský, County Clerk, Democrat.
1913—1926—Charles Dobrý, County Attorney, Democrat.
1919—1926—Clara Sazama Jensen, County Clerk, Democrat.
1921—1928—Henry Ingerle, County Commissioner, Republican.

Year elected:

Knox County

1872—1886—Václav Randa, Clerk of District Court and Abstractor.
1882—1884—Charles J. Kadish, County Treasurer.
1891—1892—E. L. Pishel, County Supervisor.
1891— Jos. V. Holeček, County Supervisor.
1896—1898—E. L. Pishel, County Treasurer.
1909—1920—F. H. Lenger, County Supervisor.
1910—1916—Václav Vlasník, Sheriff.
1912—1920—F. A. Bárta, Clerk of District Court.
1912—1914—F. H. Kučera, County Coroner.
1920—1921—John Štoural, County Supervisor.
1922— Still in office—Ed. J. Lenger, County Clerk.
1922— Still in office—Miss Anna Chládek, County Superintendent of Schools.

Morrill County

1925—W. F. Chaloupka, County Surveyor.

Pawnee County

1915—J. F. Vrtiška, County Surveyor.

Pierce County

1912—Joseph Hladík, County Surveyor.

Red Willow County

1909—C. Skala, County Clerk.

Saline County

1869—1877—A. V. Heřman, County Treasurer.
1871—1873—Frank Jelínek, County Commissioner.
1878—1881—Čeněk Duras, County Treasurer.
1878—1879—V. Vilda, County Commissioner.
1880— Frank Shabata, County Commissioner.
1881—1882—Frank Karten (Křtěn), County Commissioner.
1882—1883—John F. Špirk, County Treasurer.
1883— John Korbel, County Commissioner.
1884—1887—Ed. Beck, County Clerk.
1888—1891—Frank J. Sadílek, County Treasurer.
1890—1897—Jos. W. Shestak, Reg. of Deeds.
1892—1895—Eman J. Špirk, County Treasurer.
1896—1911—Jos. W. Shabata, Clerk of District Court.
1898—1907—Jos. W. Shestak, County Clerk.
1898—1919—(resigned) Frank J. Sadílek, Registrar of Deeds.
1904—1907—Vincent Aksamit, County Commissioner.
1908—1911—S. A. Shestak, County Treasurer.
1908—1914—Joseph Šimeček, County Coroner.
1908—1911—Alois Slepička, County Clerk.
1910—1912—Victor Mika Jr., County Commissioner.
1912—1916—H. V. Jelínek, County Treasurer.
1912—1914—John F. Šafránek, County Clerk.
1912— Still in office—S. A. Shestak, Clerk of District Court.
1912—1921—L. J. Bouchal, County Superintendent of Schools.
1912— W. F. Chaloupka, County Surveyor.
1914—1915—A. H. Shimerda, County Assessor.
1915— Still in office—J. M. Korbel, County Clerk.

Year elected:
1915—1918—Joseph Černý, County Commissioner.
1915—1916—Frank T. Řípa, County Coroner (Office abolished).
1917—1921—O. J. Kubíček, County Treasurer.
1919—1920—Ed. A. Dvořák, County Assessor.
1919—1921—Thomas J. Dredla, County Attorney.
1919—and still in office—Sidney L. Brož, Registrar of Deeds.
1920—and still in office—Adolph L. Gerner, County Commissioner.
1922—1926—John E. Měkota, County Attorney.
1922—and still in office—Vance F. Jelínek, County Treasurer.
1925—and still in office—Ben V. Kohout, County Judge.

Saunders County

1883—W. C. Kirchman, County Clerk. Re-elected, 1885.
1891—Joseph Bartek, County Sheriff.
1897—Anton B. Chapek, County Clerk. Re-elected, 1899.
1901—Charles H. Sláma, County Judge. Re-elected, 1903 and 1910.
1903—Frank Janda, County Coroner.
1905—E. E. Plaček, County Judge. Re-elected, 1907.
1907—C. J. Ficenec, County Treasurer. Re-elected, 1909.

Mrs. Clara Sazama Jensen,

Howard county clerk. Born on a farm in Box Butte County July 8, 1892, daughter of J. J. Sazama. Eight years in office.

These three women county officers are of Czech ancestry.

Miss Anna Chládek,

Knox county supt. of Schools. Born in Chicago, Ill.

Miss Lottie O. Klotz,

clerk of district court, Saunders County. Born on a farm near Ashland, deputy for several years, elected to office in 1920 on both tickets, without opposition.

1911—Frank J. Polák, County Treasurer. Re-elected, 1914.
1912—Joseph B. Hineš, County Assessor.
1914—William J. Doležal, Register of Deeds.
1914—A. Z. Donato, County Judge. Re-elected, 1916.
1916—Joseph B. Hineš, County Clerk. Re-elected, 1918.
1920—Lottie O. Klotz, Clerk of District Court. Re-elected, 1924.
1920—George F. Bartek, County Treasurer. Re-elected, 1922.
1922—A. S. Doležal, County Clerk. Re-elected, 1924.

Sherman County

Year elected:
1888—1889—A. V. Hlava, County Assessor. Again in 1908—1911.
1908—1910—Ed. Šnajdr, County Sheriff.
1912—1916—A. V. Hlava, County Supervisor.
1914—1917—E. F. Kozel, County Supervisor.
Mr. Hlava was census enumerator in 1910 and postmaster in Ravenna, 1894—1897.

Sheridan County

No County officers. Frank Cílek was precinct assessor for three years and Justice of the Peace for six years.

Valley County

1892—John Kokeš, County Sheriff. Re-elected in 1894.
1894—Vincent Kokeš, County Clerk. Served three terms.
1898—Frank Koupal, Clerk of District Court.
1900—Frank Koupal, County Clerk.
1911—F. A. Warta, County Coroner.
1919—and still in office—Jos. T. Kněžáček, County Clerk.
1919—and still in office—Frank Vodehnal, County Supervisor.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

1892—Čeněk Duras, Wilber, Republican (President Harrison).
1896—Frank J. Sadílek, Wilber, Republican (President McKinley).
1896—Stanley L. Kostohryz, Omaha, Democrat (W. J. Bryan, not elected).
1900—J. J. Langer, Wilber, Republican (President McKinley).
1912—Václav Bureš, Omaha, Republican (Taft and Roosevelt, not elected).

Joseph J. Langer

APPOINTIVE OFFICES

Joseph J. Langer, while living in Wilber, Nebraska, in 1901, was appointed by President McKinley Consul to Solingen, Germany. He also was lieutenant on Governor Mickey's staff. Mr. Langer was born in 1860 in Roudnice nad Labem, Bohemia, studied there and in Prague. In 1881 he came to Chicago, in 1895 moved to Wilber, and in 1914 returned to Chicago, Illinois, where he died in May, 1927.

John L. Bouchal, at present Consul in Port Said, Egypt, was born in Wilber, Nebraska, August 28, 1888. He engaged in teaching in country schools and after saving some money entered the State University. Miss Šárka Hrbková aided him in obtaining a position as clerk to the Consul in Prague, Bohemia, where he went in July, 1912. On May 24, 1920, he was made Vice-Consul de Carriere and on June 22, 1922 Consul in Prague. On November 22, 1923, he was appointed Consul in Port Said, Egypt.

F. J. Jonáš was Superintendent of the State Reform School in Kearney, 1893—1897. He was born in 1849 In Chýnava, County

Unhošt, came to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1866, to Colfax County in 1870. He died August 6, 1915, by accident, while at work in the State Fair Grounds, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Frank Wlna of West Point, was Receiver of the U. S. Land Office at Niobrara, 1893—1897.

Anton Fr. J. George
Jonáš brothers, pioneers of Colfax County

Adam Sloup of Omaha was oil inspector for the eastern district, 1898—1900 and also Game Warden and Superintendent of Hatcheries. He was born in 1868 in Hřichovice, County Plzeň, and came to Saunders County in 1872. In 1873 to Omaha, where he has lived since.

Vincent J. Štědrý of Broken Bow was oil inspector for the western district (No. 5), 1898—1900. His biography appears in the history of Custer County.

Dr. Joseph P. Pecivál, now of Chicago, was Superintendent of the Norfolk State Hospital for Insane, 1909—1911. Born Aug. 5, 1865, in Sopotnice, Bohemia, came to Chicago, Ill., in 1869, to Omaha in 1887.

Dr. Frederick A. Sedláček of Omaha was a member of the State Prison Board and Advisory Board of Pardons, 1914—1918. His biography appears in this chapter, in Douglas County.

Dr. J. P. Pecivál

Thomas Žáček, now of Omaha, was Food Inspector, 1919—1923. He was born Jan. 26, 1891, in West Point, Nebr., where he graduated from the High School and later from the State University. He was superintendent of schools in Nebraska towns for seven years. Secretary of the Republican Central Committee of Douglas County, August, 1924, to August, 1926.

Anton J. Tuša, Omaha, was Food Inspector.

Miss Šárka Hrbková was Chairman of State Council of Defense, Women's Division, as noted in her biography elsewhere.

Louis Berka of Omaha in 1920, was appointed member of the Temporary Board Nebraska-Iowa Boundary Commission, to adjust the Missouri River boundary with neighboring states. Still serving.

E. A. Dworak (Dvořák) in 1920 was appointed member of Board of Examiners of Public Accounts. Still serving. Lives in Omaha.

Charles J. Vlach, of Omaha, is a member of the State Board of Optometry.

Czechs in Professional, Artistic, Banking and Other Careers

School Teachers

The first public-school teacher of Czech birth, of whom we have record, and he undoubtedly is the first, is Frank Znamenáček, a pioneer of Saline County, still living in Crete. He was born in Mačovice, Benešov, Tábor, and came to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1862, attending school there a short time. During 1863 and 1864 he was employed by the government as baker, baking bread and crackers for the soldiers. He came to Saline County in 1869. In 1867, as noted elsewhere, the Czechs in Saline County, at Joseph Jindra's instigation, formed a Reading Society. Later a little log building was erected on Joseph Jelinek's farm, 14x16x6, with three windows and a door. It was built by the settlers in two days. Seats and a table of boards were provided and Jindra taught in Czech. The Reading Society met there also. In 1869 Znamenáček began to teach in English, although he taught during the first three months without text books; they were that long in coming. At that time the school belonged to District No. 3, which was organized October 6, 1868, and covered a large territory, twenty-six sections of land. Later it was subdivided, and a better building, still standing in Big Blue Precinct, was erected.

Fr. Znamenáček

Some of Mr. Znamenáček's pupils, and he thinks the list covers nearly all, were: Stephen, son of Frank Jelínek; Frank, Joseph and Adolph, sons of Joseph Jelínek; Vratislav and Miloslav, sons of Matěj Kovářík; Václav J., son

of Václav Šesták; Joseph, son of Jacob Šrajhans; Joseph, Václav, sons of Mr. Plachý, Rose and John, daughter and son of Joseph Znamenáček and a child of Mr. Svoboda. Mr. Znamenáček was succeeded by Miss Mary Neděla (later Mrs. Kubíček), Mrs. E. F. Stephens, Mr. E. F. Stephens (for many years a prominent nurseryman in that vicinity), Vinc. Dvořák, and others. The women received $25.00 salary per month, the men $40.00.

Vincent J. Štědrý, whose biography is given in the history of Custer County, taught in Saline County in 1879, near Wilber, when Bohemian settlers were many, but the children knew little or no English. He had to translate the text books for them and wrote the words of songs in both Czech and English on large sheets of paper. These he tacked on the wall and then played the melody on his violin. Both the children and parents were so pleased with his methods that the school could not hold all the pupils.

After Fr. Znamenáček the next pioneer teacher of whom we have record is Joseph W. Zerzán of Schuyler, who taught in Butler County, near Nimburg, in 1874. Louis Straka was another. He began teaching near Abie in 1883 and continued for many years following.

Co-eval with Zerzán was John F. Sobota of Praha, Colfax County, who taught in District 17 of that county in 1874 and 1875. Later he taught in Butler and Saunders counties. Other pioneer teachers in Colfax County were: Joseph W. Zerzán of Schuyler, who taught in 1876 and John Novotný, who in 1876 taught in a small building on John Folda's land, now District No. 47. Novotný also taught in Butler County later. The course lasted three or four months in the winter and the salary was $30.00 per month.

Miss Anna Zajíček (living in West Point) taught in Cuming County in 1876 and some years thereafter. Somewhat later the Misses M. Dvořák and Kath. Langer taught.

John F. Sobota taught in Saunders County prior to 1880, in Vaněk's school, two and a half miles southwest of Prague. He was succeeded by John Peleška of St. Louis, Missouri, who was also organist in the Plasi church.

Frank Lundák taught in Knox County in 1882, in District No. 6, during three months of the year. For many years now a lawyer in Gregory, South Dakota.

Joseph Walter Jr., taught in Dodge County in 1883.

There were undoubtedly others in this vanguard of the army of men and women engaged in the noble work of teaching, but the records are lost. It was the intention to list all the teachers of the present time, but that record also is not available. The best that can be done is to give names of teachers in our State University; those in high schools and principals of ward and high schools, and the rural teachers. Of the latter, lists have been obtained from all but the following counties: Banner, Greeley, Keya Paha, Loup, Nemaha, Richardson, Rock, Sarpy, Thomas and Thurston. Aside from Richardson, it is very likely that scarcely any Czech names would be found, so we are able to give almost all. There is quite a number of those who are active in responsible teaching positions in other states, but the records again are not available.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Frank Ernest Henzlík, Professor of School Administration; Fred R. Nohavec, Tractor Testing Engineer; Dr. Alfred Schalek, Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology; Orin Štěpánek, Professor of Czech, Russian, English Literature, Modern Prose and Literature of the Eighteenth Century; Dr. Charles H. Breuer, Materia Medica; August Molzer, Professor of Music; Rud. Škarda, Superintendent of Anatomy Division, Medical College, Omaha.

PRINCIPALS OF WARD AND HIGH SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS IN HIGH SCHOOLS

Libbie Kukral, Superintendent, Arcadia; Helen S. Vančura, High School, Arcadia; Helen Zahradníček, High School, Atkinson; Lillian Benda, Supervisor, Barneston; Ruth Ptáček, Supervisor, Bayard; Ed. A. Liška, Superintendent, Bee; Rose Waněk, High School, Bertrand; L. J. Bouchal, Superintendent, Blue Springs; Bessie M. Svoboda, High School, Broken Bow; Hedvika Kočí, High School, Cedar Rapids; E. L. Novotný, Superintendent, Central City; Marie Sobota, High School, Clarkson; Helen M. Krejčí, High School, Columbus; Gertrude Vrtiška, High School, Cook; Paul Šala, High School, Crawford; Mrs. Mabel Stysek, Normal Training, Crete; V. J. Shebl, Manual Training, Crete; Mrs. Otilie Eliáš, Ward Principal, Crete; J. Štech, Orchestra, Daykin; Marie Kastl, High School, Dodge; Angeline Šimeček, High School, Doniphan; James J. Liška Jr., Superintendent, Dwight; Mary Coufal, Superintendent, Emmet; Charles J. Procházka, Superintendent, Ericson; May Ptáček, High School, Farnam; A. H. Pánek, High School,

Fullerton; Mildred Kolář, High School, Hardy; John A. Straka, High School, Havelock; Mildred Černý, High School, Hemingford; Mrs. F. J. Kotlář, Supervisor, Hooper; Jerome V. Srb, Superintendent, Howell; John J. Koliha, Ella Benesh, Theodore Kubík, High School, Howell; Robert F. Prokop, Superintendent, Huntley; Lucile Hrubeský, High School, Kearney; Helen Cherny, Supervisor, Kearney; Rose Shonka, Supervisor, Lincoln; Emil Vlasák, High School, Linwood; C. A. Ostrovec, Band, Meadow Grove; J. W. Nerud, Superintendent, Melbeta; E. W. Matějovský, Ann J. Soulek, High School, Merna; J. A. Kovanda, Eleanor Kudrna, High School, Milligan; Otto Hasík, Smith-Hughes School, Milligan; Bess Rose Fitl, Superintendent, Nickerson; Helen Kubíček, Edward M. Sevčík, High School, Ord; Estella Krejčí, High School, Papillion; Clarence Tříska, High School, Paxton; Marie Procházka, High School, Pender; Elmer E. Závodský, Superintendent, Petersburg; Evelyn Bartuněk, Phylis Krahulík, High School, Polk; Anna Sakryt, High School, Red Cloud; A. J. Havlovic, High School, St. Paul; Hattie M. Procházka, Elizabeth Částek, Irene Šonka, High School, Schuyler; Eleanor Čech, Ward Principal, Schuyler; Mary Vybíral, School Nurse, Schuyler; Wm. H. Štorkan, High School, Sidney; Jos. K. Sukovatý, High School, Swanton; Wm. H. Kotas, Superintendent, Verona; Jaroslav Mulač, Supervisor of Music, Wausa; Ruth Doudna, Supervisor, Wayne; Sylvia Kunc, High School, Wilber; Ernest Hubka, High School, York.

RURAL SCHOOL TEACHERS

Adams County—Mrs. Jas. B. Pavelka, District 19.

Antelope County—Emily K. Šimánek, Dist. 9; Olga Novotný, Dist. 11.

Boone County—District not given. Agnes Nováček, Wilma Kotáb, Mary Nováček, Ethel Oliverius.

Boyd County—Joseh Mashek, Anoka; Grace E. Vesely, Anoka; Libby Sedláček, Bristow; Olga Wondra, Monowi; Frances Hambek, Helen Bašta Tilton, Annie Sedláček, Libbie Uhlíř, Elsie Pučelík, Emma Pučelík, Bessie A. Prokop, Spencer; Augusta Pokorný, Marie Němec, Martha Sedláček, Martha Jedlička, Lynch.

Box Butte County—Gladys Caha, Dist. 81.

Brown County—Miss Carol Vlastník. Dist. not given.

Buffalo County—Dist. not given. Libbie Procházka, Frances Beníšek, Sylvia Nový, Helen Mrkvička, Anna Bauer, Fred Pokorný.

Butler County—E. J. Vlasák, Dist. 2; Clara Ticháček, Dist. 2; Albin Kříž, Dist. 6; Helen Holešovský, Dist. 8; Tillie Svoboda, Dist. 10; J. J. Liska, William Walla, Marie Drahota, Emily Kotab, Mary Šlosar, all Dist. 12; Beatrice Polák, Dist. 19; Ludmila Hausner, Dist. 20; Anna Koutník, Dist. 25; Mary Vaněk, Dist. 27; Edith Markitán, Dist. 28; Sylvia Vopálenský, Dist. 34; Ed. Peltz, Stanley Draský, Dist. 38; Julian Koskan, Dist. 39; Alba Řehák, Dist. 46; Helen Štáva, Dist. 48; Rose Koza, Dist. 53; Dorothy Hasík, Dist. 59; Ed. Rech, Dist. 61; Lucille Hamsa, Dist. 66; Agnes Jambor, Dist. 69; Lillian Plaček, Olga Pelikán, Dist. 72; Florence Kalina, Dist. 73; George Kadleček, Dist. 74; Pauline Jirovský, Dist. 78; Christina Trousil, Dist. 79; Ed. Vondra, Dist. 83; Anna Bílý, Mary Tomek, Agnes Šlosar, Dist. 86; Helena

Rolenc, Dist. 90; Adolph Liska, Dist. 91; Ray Šabata, Dist. 92; Lottie Kalina, Dist. 94; Ludmila Klein; Olga Klein.

Cass County—Anna Rys, Marie Svoboda, Rose Procházka, Henrietta Toman, all in Plattsmouth.

Cedar County—Julius Stejskal, Hartington.

Chase County—Martha Bukáček, Dist. 3.

Cherry County—Dolley L. Krasomil, Dist. 1; Katherine Brinda, Dist. 20; Agnes Hora, Dist. 179; Elsie Burian, Dist. 181.

Cheyenne County—Wm. H. Štorkan, Principal, Sidney, Dist. 1; Irene Pavlat, Dist. 5; Angeline Jeník, Dist. 12; Frank Bárta, Dist. 51; Avis Mrkvička, Dist. 86.

Clay County—Dist. not given. Clara Souček, Edward Wolfe, Agnes Wolfe.

Colfax County—Anna Štastný, Dist. 1; Anna Šulc, Dist. 5; Julia Tyburec, Dist. 6; Jessie Teplý, Dist. 8; Chas. V. Jonáš, Dist. 11; Josephine Šterba, Dist. 14; Mary O. Krula, Dist. 15; Tillie Pokorný, Dist. 17; Mamie Krčma, Dist. 19; Bessie Havrda, Dist. 22; Agnes Jura, Dist. 23; Mayme Skala, Dist. 24; Sylvia Tyburec, Dist. 25; Vlasta Ulichrach, Dist. 28; Anna M. Karel, Dist. 29; Anna M. Hájek, Dist. 30; Olga Indra, Dist. 31; Lillian Novák, Dist. 32; Josephine Svoboda, Dist. 34; Gilbert Průcha, Dist. 35; Elinor Ryšavý, Dist. 37; Rose Pražák, Dist. 38; Olga A. Severa, Dist. 42; Rose Sláma, Dist. 44; Frances Černý, Dist. 47; Tillie L. Karel, Dist. 48; Emma Třešnak, Dist. 51; Elsie E. Petr, Dist. 53; Emily Fayman, Dist. 54; Bertha Hudec, Dist. 56; Ethel Petr, Dist. 57; Josephine Fillipi, Martha Bukáček, Dist. 58; Jos. F. Blažek, Clara Kovář, Dist. 59; Helen Mareš, Dist. 60; Adelaide Kovář, Dist. 61; Adela Urbánek, Dist. 62.

Cuming County—District not given. Helen Nebuda, Adeline Severa, Lucy Svoboda, Anna Studnička, Irene Kubík, Esther Fillipi; Blanche Miklas, Helen Jírovec.

Custer County—Marvelle Z. Kříž, Broken Bow; Eleanor R. Kasper, Table; Mary Dobesh, Anselmo; Edna E. Klanecký, Sargent.

Dawes County—Nellie M. Mašek, Dist. 113; Elizabeth Jelínek, Crawford.

Dawson County—Mary Sladký. Dist. not given.

Dodge County—Bess R. Fitle, Dist. 19; Millie Cherney, Dist. 26; Libbie Šic, Dist. 28; Anna Kocour, Dist. 39; Elsie Dlouhý, Dist. 45; J. M. Ostrý, Marie Kastl, Dist 46; Christina Kocour, Dist. 57; Tillie Fiala, Dist. 58; Alice Vosaček, Dist. 61.

Douglas County—Elsie Chizek, Dist. 4.

Omaha—Mary Bookmeyer, Household Arts, North High School; Charles E. Severyn, Mathematics, North High School; Josephine Duras, English, South High School; Emily Houška, Social Science, Technical High School; Marie Houška Sweeney, English, Technical High School; Anna Mach Borglum, Rose Fiala, Emma Frohner, Mary Nováček Hrdlička, Helen Kuncl, Marie Mašek, Mayme Pecha, Blanche Říha, Zdenka Sedláček, Anna Svačina, Angeline Tauchen, Irene Tauchen. Ida Dušátko Turk, Irene Zíka, all in grade schools.

In this connection it may be proper to make mention of Miss Emma Rosický, daughter of John Rosický. She has been thus far the only

principal of Czech ancestry of an Omaha school (City of Omaha), and when appointed was the youngest principal of her time. Miss Anna Fitl was principal of a South Omaha school prior to that and co-eval with Miss Rosický, Miss Julia Krisl was principal in the Florence school. Miss Rosický was born in Omaha, January 22, 1879, and died there November 27, 1918, during the great influenza epidemic. She taught in the Omaha schools for thirteen years and then for seven years was principal, first of Sherman and then of Bancroft schools. Her sister Rose, in loving memory, established in her name the Emma Rosický Scholarship Fund, in the Omaha Technical High School, to aid needy pupils.

Fillmore County—District not given. Lillian Sluka, Mayme Loukota, Mae Čudlý, Hazel Lapcheska, Mamie Šteinochr, Anna Hamouz, Helen Matějka, Alice Laun, Alice M. Švec, Mildred Kuska, Jesse A. Kovanda, Clara Zumpfe, Clara Kolář, the last three in Milligan.

Frontier County—Daisy Novotný, District 115.

Furnas County—Vlasta Humlíček, District 103.

Gage County—Helen Shimonek, Dist. 48; Helen Ságl, Dist. 68; Elsie Bednář, Dist. 79; Rose Beran, Dist. 86; Estella M. Koštál, Dist. 87; Ruby M. Fiala, Dist. 88; Mary H. Hájek, Dist. 94; Anna S. Koštál, Dist. 112; Christina E. Koštál, Dist. 130; Elsie M. Beran, Dist. 134; Eveline Černý, Dist. 159; Lillie Vítek, Dist. 164; Lillian Benda, Dist. 165.

Garden County—Emma Mishek. District not given.

Hall County—Julia Klapal, Dist. 8; Angeline F. Šimeček, Dist. 26.

Harlan County—Robert F. Prokop, Superintendent, Sylvia Skočpol, both in Huntley.

Holt County—Mary G. Horskey, Dist. 7; Mary Coufal, Dist. 20; Helen Zahradníček, Dist. 21; Henry Zahradníček, Dist. 74; Anna Coufal, Dist. 77; Stasia Sedláček, Dist. 82; Lillian Jelínek, Dist. 134; Marcella Bouška, Dist. 143; Bessie Průša, Dist. 188; Anna Bouška, Dist. 205; Mildred Mlinář, Dist. 218.

Howard County—Leo Krause, S. E. Holley (Holý), Christina Moravec, P. Pánek, Alice Gruber, Rose Blažek, Emma Zvolánek—all in St. Paul; Josie Tuma, Cotesfield; Lillian Zvatička, Elba; Hilda Bartuněk, Wolbach.

Jefferson County—Rose Zedník, Dist. 42; Rose Pavlíček, Dist. 79; Irene Shaněk, Dist. 88.

Johnson County—Verna Pěnkava, Dist. 58.

Knox County—Adella Brožovský, Dist. 3; Frank Somer, Dist. 6; Martha Prokop, Dist. 27; Lillian Valvoda, Dist. 40; Lydia Vonásek, Dist. 46; Clara Mladý, Dist. 51; Vlasta Kubík, Dist. 53; Frank Jerman, Dist. 61; Mamie Pospíšil, Dist. 80; Elsie Holan, Dist. 88; Helen Tikalský, Dist. 93; Lucy Zahradníček, Dist. 100; Mary Tuch, Dist. 105; Viola Staněk, Niobrara; Vlasta Kolář, Helen Nejedlý, Creighton; Anna Tikalský, Emily Markytán, Mable Staněk, Verdigre; Wm. Zahradníček, Crofton.

Lancaster County—Lillie Dřevo, Dist. 45; Blanche Prachař, Dist. 74; Irma Warta, Dist. 82; Irene Warta, Dist. 109; Louise Špatz, Dist. 115; Anna Bobolík, Dist. 117; John A. Straka, Dist. 137; Arnold Brož, Dist. 141.

Lincoln County—Bessie Šebek, Dist. 79; Katherine Vondra, Dist. 85; Lucile C. Vencill, Dist. 122.

Madison County—Mildred Tomšík, Dist. 6; Julia Ondráček, Madison (Dist. 1); Frances Šimonek, Dist. 12.

McPherson County—District not given. Arnold Prokop, Martha Wolf.

Merrick County—Esther Lahovec, Palmer.

Nuckolls County—Lillie Aksamit, Dist. 21; Frank Stichka, Dist. 56; Leo. Karmazin, Dist. 57; Bohuslav Mazour, Dist. 58; Charles Votypka, Dist. 64; Jan Tenopír, Dist. 64.

Otoe County—Mildred Mlinář, Dist. 20.

Pawnee County—May Staněk, Dist. 1; Lillian Peterka, Dist. 5; Steven Šťastný, Dist. 10; Emma Fritz, Dist. 16; Nellie Vrtiška, Dist. 26; Emily Hubka, Dist. 31; Minnie Tenk, Dist. 32; Julia Bláha, Dist. 33; Anthony Zelenka, Dist. 35; Emma Vrtiška, Dist. 49; Marie Staněk, Dist. 51; Helen Staněk, Dist. 65; Jennie Langer, Dist. 70; Angeline Kudlák, Dist. 62.

Pierce County—Emma Maštalíř, Dist. 2.

Platte County—John Kožíšek, Dist. 7.

Saline County—Helda Němec, Dist. 1; Hermina Sobotka, Dist. 3; Alma Vosika, Dist. 4; Ida Waněk, Dist. 7; Alice Richtařík, Dist. 8; Mary Veselý, Dist. 9; Libbie Prokop, Dist. 10; Helen M. Bláha, Dist. 15; Irene Nohavec, Dist. 17; Emma Chrastil, Dist. 19; H. Sylvia Baxa, Dist. 21; Helen M. Prokop, Dist. 22; Leone Čečrle, Dist. 28; Agnes Lorenz, Dist. 31; Josephine Bárta, Dist. 32; Sylvia Kasl, Dist. 34; Rose Bednář, Dist. 42; Mathilda Hynek, Dist. 45; Emily Bouše, Dist. 48; Helen Mička, Dist. 49; Ida Vosika, Dist. 51; Jos. Janáš, Dist. 55; Mamie Krupička, Dist. 57; Emily Hamouz, Dist. 59; Bessie Šefrna, Dist. 60; Edward Prokop, Dist. 64; Stella Král, Dist. 65; Rose Dunder, Dist. 66; Emily Řezábek, Dist. 76; Inez Kumpost, Dist. 77; Bertha Drda, Dist. 78; Olga Žlab, Dist. 79; Elsie Táchovský, Dist. 80; Julia Eliáš, Dist. 83; Lillie Tysher, Dist. 84; Hattie Kupka, Dist. 87; Rose Bečvář, Dist. 89; Anna Hamouz, Dist. 96; Sylvia Vosika, Dist. 97; Hattie Prachař, Dist. 98; Helen M. Baxa, Dist. 100; Abie Musil, Dist. 104; Marie Buzek, Dist. 120; Clara Bělohlavý, Dist. 5.

Saunders County—Victoria Suchánek, Dist. 1, Ashland; Alice Bunda, Dist 14; Lydia Shavlík, Adele Lodl, Morse Bluff; Edward Roh, Dist. 15; Martha Chmelka, Dist. 17; Helen M. Wondra, Dist. 19; Hattie Sudík, Dist. 25; Anna Machovec, Dist. 26; Libbie Novák, Dist. 51; Frances L. Vybíral, Dist. 53; Christine Jeřábek, Dist. 54; Mrs. Rose Wojta, Dist. 68; Ludmila Paroulek, Dist. 71; Victor Stuchlík, Dist. 74; Bessie Maloušek, Dist. 76; Clara Havelka, Dist. 77; F. A. Kavan, Dist. 78; Judith Kašpar, Dist. 80; Frances Machovec, Dist. 83; Kristina Hájek, Dist. 84; Barbara Vrána, Dist. 85; Clara Novák, Dist. 86; Emily Hájek, Dist. 90; Rose Vávra, Dist. 92; Mary L. Franta, Dist. 94; Marie Pavlík, Dist. 98; Mary E. Bouc, Dist. 99; Marie Švantner, Principal Prague school, Dist. 104; Ernest Texl, Mildred Kastl, Elsie Pavel, same school; Emily Mařík, Dist 106; Gerald Urban, Dist. 111; Edward Čejka, Dist. 113; Rose Bouc, Dist. 118.

Scottsbluff County—Lillian Šindelář, Dist. 17; James Nerud, Augusta Hanish, Dist. 81.

Seward County—Julia Radinský, Dist. 9; Irene Kalčík, Dist. 19; Fred E. Kadleček, Dist. 33; Helen Severin, Dist. 60; Adolph Liška, Dist. 91; Gabriela Maixner, Dist. 93.

Sherman County—Eva Macek, Dist. 20.

Sioux County—Bertha G. Justa, Dist. 7; Amelia Chalupa, Dist. 29.

Stanton County—District not given. Vlasta M. Krofta, Julia Pražák, Helen Jírovec, Emma Konvalin, Marie Veselý, Anna Šperl.

Thayer County—Alice Houser, Dist. 4; Mildred Maulik, Dist. 72; Amy Babka, Dist. 78; Elsie Vostřež, Dist. 85.

Valley County—Helen Kubíček, Dist. 5; Lucy Roubal, Mabel Miško, Dist. 5; Clarence Kučera, Dist. 23; Anna Holoun, Dist. 29; Clara Kokeš, Dist. 30; Marie Kokeš, Dist. 32; Lillie Cílek, Dist. 34; Elizabeth Lukeš, Dist. 35; Lena Kokeš, Dist. 44; Minnie Adámek, Dist. 49; Agnes Čadek, Dist. 56; Adeline Kosmata, Dist. 67; Emily Beránek, Dist. 73.

Wayne County—Mollie Vlastník, Junior High School, Wayne; Rose M. Barták, Dist. 80.

Webster County—Anis Dvořáček, Dist. 13.

Wheeler County—C. Procházka, Superintendent, Ericson.

York County—Ludmila Radil, Dist. 102.

Artists

Stanislav Jan Letovský, composer and concert pianist. Letovský's grandfather on his father's side, Jan Bárta Letovský was, with František Kořízek, the first publisher of a Czech newspaper in this country (Racine, Wis., 1860). Letovský was born in Omaha, his parents being Stanislav and Agnes Řezáč Letovský. At the age of six he began to study music under his father, a composer and cellist of marked ability, and later under Richard Burmeister, the bosom friend and pupil of Franz Lizst. While in his eighteenth year Letovský, who had gone abroad to finish his studies, accepted the posi-

Stanislav J. Letovský

tion of assistant conducter of the Stadt Theater in Kiel, Germany, during which time he composed and played several tours of piano concerts. At this time he was offered a scholarship to the Scharwenka Piano School of Berlin. Later, in Posen, Germany, the first conductor, Dr. Fritz Stiedry, resigned his position in favor of the young musician, who conducted in an amazing manner Richard Wagner's "Ring of the Nibelungen." During that period Letovský made his début as a full-grown pianist at a philharmonic concert at the Academy of Posen. The following season he accepted the position of First Conductor of the Grand Duke's Royal Opera in Mecklenburg and in 1916 was the recipient of a scholarship for piano and composition to the Academy of Tone Art in Vienna, Austria. His works as published in Berlin by Schlesinger, are: Sonata for piano, D flat, Op 1, Variations Upon An Original Theme, for piano, Op. 2, Five piano pieces: Praeludium, Il Penseroso, Valse Intermezzo, Sehnsucht, L'Allegro, Op. 3, Four Ballads for Piano, Op 4, Five Fantasy Pieces, Op. 5, Grand Opera in three acts, "Lady Anne", Op. 6 (Libretto by Walter Ramdohr), Five Songs, Op 14, a concert number for violin, with piano accompaniment, "Through My Dreams", Op 16. Letovský is still in his early thirties and great things are expected of him as a composer, concert-pianist and symphony orchestra conductor. His early works show the influence of his European environment, whereas his later the influence of American inspiration. Among these latter are "Sheridan's Ride", "Sunday Morning" (an orchestral work which won a national prize in Chicago, 1925), "Huck Finn" (a fantasie for piano and orchestra), String Quartette, and many others. He has received many favorable press notices in Germany and Austria. With the exception of the time spent abroad, he has always lived in Omaha.

Marie Míková, a highly talented concert pianiste and teacher, whose work is of remarkable technique and delicate brilliancy and who has won international renown. She was born in Omaha. Her parents are Joseph J. and Anna Drozda Mík. She graduated from the Omaha High School and

studied piano in Omaha under August Mothe-Borglum. At the age of seventeen she appeared before the public in her first concert. In 1910 she began to study piano with Wager Swayne in Paris and in that city made her debut, at the age of twenty, playing with the Touché orchestra. She was the first Nebraska woman to play with an orchestra in Europe, in concert work. Miss Míková has made two concert tours in the United States, from coast to coast, and for three years taught and played in the California State University in Berkeley, during the summer session. During the war Wager Swayne was forced to abandon his work and moved to New York, where Miss Míková became his assistant. At present living in California.

Miss Marie Míková

August Molzer, concert violinist and teacher of violin, Lincoln, Nebr. Mr. Molzer (the family name is Melcer) was born in Slané, Bohemia, in 1881 and at the age of seven came with his parents to Wilber, Nebr. In 1901 he went to Prague, Bohemia, to study there with the renowned teacher of violin, Prof. Otakar Ševčík, the teacher of Kubelík, Kocian and other celebrated violinists. After two years of serious study with Ševčík, he began to prepare pupils for this noted pedagogue, as well as for Prof. Stefan Suchý, now head of the violin department of the Prague Conservatory of Music. Prof. Molzer completed his studies with Ševčík in 1906, doing considerable teaching during the last two years. Besides his violin studies, he studied also piano, theory of music, harmony and allied subjects at the Prague Conservatory of Music under the direct personal supervision of the celebrated Dr. Anton Dvořák. He has had the honor of having played under the following celebrated masters: Dvořák,

Grieg, Richard Strauss, Siefried Wagner and many other lesser known orchestral conductors. Upon his return to Nebraska he taught two years as head of the violin department at Wesleyan University, Lincoln, and two years in the University School of Music. In 1911 he established the Molzer School of the Violin, in which he continues as director. Since 1925 he is on the University of Nebraska faculty as professor of violin and has made several concert tours, principally in Nebraska. He has composed a number of violin pieces. His wife, Lucy Miller Molzer, pianiste, assists him.

Stephen Jelínek, a cornetist of ability, was born in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, August 10, 1865, and came to Saline County with his parents, Frank and Marie Jelínek, in 1869, settling on a homestead near Crete. He grew to manhood there and later went to Chicago, where he was appointed bandmaster of the 11th Arizona Regiment in Porto Rico, entering upon his duties Nov. 1, 1894, during the Spanish-American War. His band numbered thirty-five men. In 1896 they returned to Washington, where they played in the parade during President McKinley's inauguration. They remained there until the close of April, when they sailed for the Philippine Islands, arriving at Samar Island on June 1, 1897. In September Mr. Jelínek obtained leave, promising to return, but his parents did not wish him to do so. He married Miss Frances Dvořáček of Wilber, and lives in Lincoln.

Stephen Jelínek

Archie Baley, violinist, son of F. J. and Anna (Štibral) Baley of Omaha, was born August 5, 1906, in Lesterville, South Dakota. At the early age of four and a half years he began to take violin lessons of Dr. Juergens of Gregory, South Dakota. In 1913 he studied with Prof. Machek of Chicago, Illinois, and Prof. Rychlík of Cleveland, Ohio,

and in 1915 with Prof. Frank Mach of Omaha, with whom he continued steadily during the next seven years and irregularly after that. In 1921, when but fifteen years old, he studied with the celebrated Prof. Otakar Ševčík of Prague, Bohemia, when the master was instructor in Ithaca Conservatory, Ithaca, N. Y. In the winter of that year he began to teach. In 1922 he headed a company of five artists who made a summer concert-tour through Nebraska and South Dakota, at which time he was member of the Omaha Philharmonic Orchestra as first violin. In 1923 he graduated from Omaha Central High School, where he took active part in the orchestra and "road show" features, the same being true of his previous attendance in the Abraham Lincoln High School of Council Bluffs, Iowa. In the fall of 1924 he became musical and dramatic critic on the Omaha Daily News, writing under the name of "Phil Mick", and in 1926 became a member of the World Herald (Omaha) staff, which position he now holds.

Karel (Charles) Havlíček, violinist, was born in Omaha and studied violin there with various teachers. At the age of fifteen he entered the Stern Conservatory in Berlin, Germany, and later studied in Dresden, Prague and Paris. He then concertized in the United States, Canada, South America and Europe, associating in tours with Alice Nielsen, Vallin, Pardo, Crabbé, Oumesnil, Arthur Rubinstein and others. He was member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and during the last six years has been head of the violin department at Washington State College. Son of Edward Havlíček, an Omaha pioneer and well known musician.

Agnes Knoflíček (Mrs. William Reddie), violinist, was born in Nebraska where she lived until her fourteenth year, when she went to Prague, Bohemia, to study violin with Prof. Stefan Suchý. Two years later she was obliged to return to the U. S., on account of the World War. She studied with Johannes Brill in Omaha and in Bush Musical Conservatory, Chicago, where she won the Ševčík scholarship. Twice she studied with Prof. Ševčík, when the master

visited our country. She gave concerts as violin soloist for four seasons, all over the United States. At present living in Chicago, Ill., where she fills engagements and is studying with Leon Lamatini.

Frank Mach Jr., violinist, son of Omaha pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mach Sr., was born in Omaha August 28, 1887. He showed unusual talent in early childhood and later studied in the Prague Conservatory of Music, Prague, Bohemia, completing his studies with Prof. Jan Mařák. Upon his return to Omaha, he engaged in teaching in which he has made a brilliant success, developing many fine artists. Some of his pupils are now leaders of our leading orchestras.

Prof. Frank Mach Jr.

Frank W. Hodek, composer, concert pianist and choral and orchestral director, living in Omaha, has gained wide prominence as the conductor of the Nightingale Orchestra, for the music of this splendid organization is broadcast by radio and is popular with those who listen in. Mr. Hodek was born in Baltimore, Md., July 19, 1895, the son of Frank W. and Theresa (Skřivan) Hodek. His father is a musician of ability, therefore the son comes by his talent through heritage. Mr. Hodek studied music first in his native city Baltimore and continued later in the Prague Conservatory of Music, where he paid special attention to piano, harmony and orchestration. Upon his return to Omaha he became a student in Creighton University. During the World War he spent two years in Europe, in service. At present he is conductor of the Nightingale Orchestra, which organization

besides doing radio work under his direction has made tours in Nebraska and neighboring states.

Helen Sadílek Kyhl, pianiste, daughter of Charles and Mary (Šabata) Sadílek, was born November 21, 1883, in Chicago, Ill. Her father is an old resident of our state and her mother is a daughter of an early Saline County pioneer, Frank Šabata. Mrs. Kyhl began her piano studies at the age of twelve, in Omaha, first under Mr. Schwartz, then with Mr. E. M. Jones. She graduated the Central High School of Omaha in 1904 with highest honors, her average for the entire time being over 97. During her High School days Mrs. Kyhl was president of the Orpheus Club, a musical organization, accompanist for the High School Glee Club, a musical organization, and winner in the musical division of the Senior Contest. After graduation she continued her musical studies under Tom J. Kelly, Joe Barton and Alice Fawcett and taught piano as well, besides being accompanist for the Vocal Department at Bellevue College and in many Omaha studios. She gave her first piano concert before the faculty and students of Bellevue College in the historic old Presbyterian Church in Bellevue. This was followed by others in Omaha. Mrs. Kyhl then studied in Berlin, Germany, during 1909—1911 under Prof. Xaver Scharwenka, harmony under Dr. Hugo Leichtenritt. Upon her return home, she opened a studio in Omaha, teaching piano and coaching voice; studied voice under Mary Munchoff and was accompanist in that artist's studio for three years, appearing also as soloist and accompanist in public. In 1916 she married Louis C. Kyhl and became the mother of two children. Mr. and Mrs. Kyhl now reside in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Clara Schneider Tesař

Clara Schneider Tesař, violinist, was born in South Omaha, Nebraska, July 19, 1902. She graduated from

Comenius grade school and Technical High School of Omaha. At the age of eight years she began to study violin with Prof. Frank Mach and has done a great deal of concert work in Omaha. She toured Colorado, Nevada, Utah, California and Oregon with the Southern Festival Circuit of Ellison White Co., from September 15, 1924, to December 21, 1924. Mrs. Tesař was for two seasons concert master and soloist of the Omaha Little Symphony. At present living in Omaha.

Czechs Who Have Achieved Various Noteworthy Careers

Dr. Olga Sadílek-Štastný, the first and thus far only Czech woman physician in Nebraska, is the daughter of well-known pioneers of Wilber, Frank J. and Theresa Jurka Sadílek. She was born there September 13, 1878, and graduated from the Wilber High School in June, 1895. On Oct. 25, 1895, she married Dr. Charles Štastný. Of this marriage were born a daughter Elsa (Mrs. Lad. Skočdopole of Crete), and a son Robert, who met death in an airplane accident on July 2, 1921, while visiting his mother in Prague, Czechoslovakia. After her husband's death (1906), Dr. Štastný began to study medicine and in 1913 graduated from the College of Medicine, University of Nebraska. During 1913 and part of 1914 she took a postgraduate course in Boston, as House Physician of the New England Hospital for Women and Children and began to practice in Omaha, July 1, 1914. During the World War (1917) she organized a tag day for the Franco-Serbian Relief Hospital, when $10,000 was collected for that purpose. In that year she organized a department of Americanization of the Woman's Division of the State Council of Defense. Her Five Minute speech on Americanization was accepted by the National Council of Defense and sent to other states as a model. She also was active in Bohemian National Alliance work. In November, 1918, she organized a tag day for the benefit of the American Women's Hospitals serving

in France, when $5,000 was collected, enough to establish one dispensary. In December, 1918, she sailed to join Unit No. 1 of the above mentioned hospital at Luzancy, France, for reconstruction work, 15 kilometers south and east of Chateau Thierry. On July 2, 1919, she left for Czechoslovakia, at the request of Dr. Alice Masaryk, daughter of the president of that country, to teach medical social service and hygiene in the Social Service Training School organized by Dr. Masaryk, with the help of the American Young Women's Christian Association. She made a survey of the nursing situation in Prague, and as a result the American Red Cross organized a training school for nurses under the direction of the American trained workers. She established a baby clinic and feeding station in Praha VII, one of the poor sections of the city and used it as a teaching center for her students. In October, 1919, she was transferred to the Young Men's Christian Association, where she was given full charge of the Health Department and did much good work in that direction, so that it spread to civilian classes all over the country. This work was constructive, recent reports showing that it is being carried on in many places. In December, 1921, Dr. Šťastný returned to Omaha on sick leave and in September, 1922, returned again to Europe, planning a course of post-graduate work in Prague and Berlin, but a few months later was called to Athens, Greece, by the American Women's Hospitals and sent to Smyrna, to work among the deported Christians from Turkey and Asia Minor. She was made Director of the Quarantine Station on Macronissi Island, through which station ten thousand refugees passed monthly. Pest ships from the Black Sea ports discharged their human cargoes on this barren island during the exodus of the Christian population from Anatolia. Dr.

Dr. Olga S. Šťastný

Štastný lived with these outcasts, who suffered from typhus and small-pox, and served them personally for six months. She was decorated with the Cross of St. George by the Greek Government, for this work. She contracted malaria in Greece and left in the fall of 1923. During that year and 1924 she gave many lectures all over the United States. In 1924, having returned to Omaha, she was elected a delegate to the International Medical Women's Conference in London, in July, and in the fall of that year she returned to Omaha, engaging in practice, and is now living in Omaha. In the summer of 1929 Dr. Štastný was appointed president-elect of the Women's National Medical Association, to asume her office at the 1930 meeting to be held in Detroit, Mich.

Mrs. Anna R. Kovanda

Mrs. Anna R. Kovanda, Table Rock, Nebraska, was for several years vice-president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association for Nebraska and in 1915 was elected president. However, she resigned that honor and again became vice-president. For four years (1910—1914) she directed the Headquarters of Literature at the Epworth League Assembly in Lincoln and also in Pawnee City, Nebraska. For her loyal and energetic service she received a diploma entitling her to the Honor Roll of the brave army of men and women who have rendered distinguished service to the cause of woman suffrage in America. This diploma is signed by Carrie Chapman Catt, President, and Jeanette L. Wilson, Recording Secretary. Mrs. Kovanda has also been active among her own people, having taught the Czech school and directed many dramatic performances in Czech and participating in lodge life. Mrs. Kovanda's parents, John Klíma and wife, were Pawnee County pioneers. She was born on their farm near Steinauer, February 28, 1873. She attended the public schools and the Pawnee City Academy. On August 18, 1891, she married A. R. Kovanda,

a son of pioneers there. They have one son, now president of the State Bank of Elk Creek.

Stanislav Šerpán, Omaha, has achieved the distinction of being the first Czechoslovakian Consul for the district west of the Mississippi River. He is practically a self-taught man and was born December 19, 1887, in Tis, Bohemia, coming to this country in May, 1900, to Omaha, with his mother, the father having preceded them some years before.

Stan. Šerpán

He attended public school in Omaha for a short time and when fourteen years old entered the services of National Printing Company as apprentice to the printing trade. Later he rose to the position of stenographer and secretary to John Rosický (1905—1910) and still later had charge of the imported book department of the company. In 1912 he became editor of the Bratrský Věstník, a monthly organ of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, and is still serving in that capacity. During the World War he was secretary of the Bohemian National Alliance, when he was very active. Since 1920 he is president of the Lodge Palacký No. 1, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association and Těl. Jed. Sokol of Omaha, and is active as a speaker and organizer among Czechs. In January, 1921, he was made Consul for Czechoslovakia. He married Miss Emma Vlach and lives in Omaha.

Victor Hugo Duras was born in Wilber, Nebraska, May 6, 1880. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, when he received the A. B. degree in 1900 and L. L. B. in 1902, in 1903 L. L. M. from the Columbia University and in 1905 D. C. L. and M. Diplomacy from the George Washington University. He was admitted to the bar in Nebraska, New York and Washington, D. C. In 1908 he was appointed Judge in Cristobal, Panama, when twenty-eight years old,

the youngest United States judge ever appointed. He has written many articles on world peace and two books: Panama—West vs. East and Universal Peace by International Government. In 1914 he became American Vice-Consul to Liege, Belgium, where during the siege he was slightly wounded. After Liege capitulated, he was sent, at his own request, as Vice-Consul to St. Petersburg, Russia, where later he was accused of being a spy and imprisoned, but was released. At present he is an international lawyer (Washington and Paris) with office in Washington, D. C. Son of Saline County pioneers, Čeněk and Marie Špirk Duras.

Physicians

As far as known, Dr. John A. Habenicht was the pioneer Czech physician in Nebraska. He was born in 1840 in Čáslav, Bohemia, his father being a German army doctor and his mother a Czech, an ardent patriot. Under her guidance he grew up to be a Czech. After attending school in his native village and later in Litoměřice, where his father was transferred, he studied medicine in the University of Prague and later in Leipsig, Germany. He engaged in medical practice and in 1869 came to Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Habenicht was rather an unusual man, an ardent lover of literature and the dramatic art. He devoted thirty years of his life to writing a history of the Czechs in the United States which was published in 1904 by the Catholic paper Hlas in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1897 he published at his own expense his "Reminiscences of an old physician", which deals mainly with the history of the Czech settlement in Chicago. He revised and brought to date an edition of a popular medical book in

Dr. J. A. Habenicht

Czech, written originally by Dr. Pečírka in Bohemia. He was a great admirer of Napoleon and in his large library were to be found any books he had ever heard of about his favorite hero. Dr. Habenicht was of a very restless nature and never stayed long anywhere, which propensity served him well in writing his history. He came to Nebraska the first time in 1880, to Wilber; in 1887 he moved to Schuyler and in 1890 again to Wilber, having lived in the meantime also in Dodge and possibly in other places. He did not stay long in Wilber the second time and after that never again settled in our state. In 1898 he returned finally to Chicago, where he died February 14, 1918, after a long illness, having been stricken by paralysis in 1916. His body was cremated and the ashes placed in the columbarium in the Bohemian National Cemetery, Chicago.

As far as known, probably the next, as to pioneers, were the following, who were the first to study medicine in Nebraska: Dr. Louis Swoboda, a very successful physician in Omaha for many years, having now retired; Dr. Chas. H. Breuer, whose biography is given elsewhere; Dr. Joseph P. Pecivál, biography given elsewhere, and Dr. J. R. Jíčinský, biography given elsewhere. These began to study in Omaha in 1893 and all but Dr. Jíčinský graduated there, he having finished in Rush College, Chicago.

The following is a list of the physicians now practicing in our state. It was not possible to secure a list of all who in the past have been here and have died or moved away:

Dr. F. A. Bárta, Ord; Dr. J. S. Brož, Rushville; Dr. F. J. Kálal, Dr. Joseph Černý, Wilber; Dr. B. W. Draský, Linwood; Dr. E. C. Hanisch, St. Paul; Dr. J. A. Jelínek, Bruno; Dr. B. Kantor, Sargent; Dr. J. Karník, Dodge; Dr. W. J. Kavan, Dr. Vosika, Clarkson; Dr. R. C. Kirchman, Wilber; Dr. F. H. Kučera, Verdigre; Dr. C. E. Novák, Humboldt; Dr. Joseph Šimeček, Swanton; Dr. Fred G. Kolouch, Dr. L. H. Sixta, Schuyler; Dr. V. V. Šmrha, Milligan; Dr. J. J. Srb, Dwight; Dr. J. J. Stibal, Plattsmouth; Dr. F. J. Stejskal, Crete; Dr. A. E Waněk, Loup City; Dr. J. G. Bartek, Dr. Ed. Chaloupka, Dr. John G. Chaloupka, Dr. L. L. Hanisch, Dr. G. J. Kadavý, Dr. Chas. J. Němec, Dr. B. B. Sedláček, Dr. F. A. Sedláček, Dr. Olga Šťastný, Dr. J. P. Swoboda, Dr. Franz Svoboda; Dr. Alfred Schalek, Dr. G. F. Šimánek, Dr. Adolphus Srb, Dr. Jos. M. Schramek, Dr. W. L. Sucha, Dr. J. J. Warta, Dr. J. F. Lukovský, all Omaha; Dr. C. H. Breuer, Dr. Miles Breuer, Lincoln.

Lawyers

As far as known, Florian V. Krátký, who came from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Wahoo, Saunders County, in 1878, was the first Czech lawyer in Nebraska. F. D. Doležal of Fremont, at present the oldest Czech lawyer in our state, writes: "When I came to the state, January 1, 1881, there was only one Czech lawyer here, Mr. Krátký of Wahoo, then a man between thirty and forty years of age. He showed educational training and was a regular lawyer, whether he studied in a law school or got his training in a law office."—Krátký, in fact, read law with a pioneer Wahoo lawyer, Copp, and later entered into partnership with him, under the name of Copp & Krátký. Still later he had his own office. He died May 2, 1892, in Blair, Nebraska.

Fr. D. Doležal

Louis Berka, who settled in Omaha in 1883 and has practiced law there continuously since, is the third oldest Bohemian lawyer in the state. His biography is given in the chapter on political life.

Another pioneer lawyer (so-called) was George Elbling, also of Wahoo, of whom Mr. Doležal writes: "He was not able to conduct litigation in district and higher courts, but was active in justice courts and county court and did other work connected with law practice. He did not show collegiate training and I do not know how he came into law practice." The fact was that he had no collegiate or other legal training, but having been elected Justice of the Peace and holding that office for many years, he gradually grew to know the routine of law work. He was a titular lawyer only and like other "professionals", medical and legal, of those early days, achieved his position sans training and sans diploma. His biography is given in the history of Saunders County.

Frank D. Doležal, Fremont, now the oldest Czech lawyer in our state, was born in Džbánov, County Chrudim, Bohemia, January 16, 1858, and came to the United States in the spring of 1867, to Iowa. Aside from common school and some special instruction, his education was completed at the Southern Iowa Normal and Scientific Institute, then located at Bloomfield, Iowa, where he graduated in scientific course. He then entered upon the study of law in the law office of Stivers & Bradshaw, Toledo, Ohio, and was admitted to practice in all the courts of Iowa upon examination in November, 1880. He came to Crete, Nebr., from Toledo January 1, 1881. In 1882 he settled in Fremont, where he has been since, except six months in 1897, when he was in Salt Lake City, Utah, as attorney for mining corporations. He is now in his forty-sixth year of practice in Nebraska and from the first confined himself to law practice as distinguished from collection and agency business.

The following is a list of Czechs who have been admitted to the bar in Nebraska, the larger number of whom are still in practice here. It was not possible to get the addresses of all. However, the desire is to show the number, which is the main point, as with other professionals herein listed.

Frank A. Bárta, Center; Frank W. Bartoš, Stanley Bartoš, Wilber; Leo. N. Bartuněk, Lincoln; J. E. Bednář, Louis Berka, Omaha; J. W. Blezak (Blízek) Plainview; J. L. Bouchal, Wilber; Thomas Čapek, Omaha (now of New York); Frank C. Charvát, Omaha; Joseph Ernest Cherney (Černý); Leland Wesley Cerney (Černý), Omaha; E. A. Coufal, David City; F. O. Divíšek; Charles W. Dobrý; Frank D. Doležal, Fremont; A. Z. Donato, Wahoo; T. J. Dredla (Drdla), Crete; Victor H. Duras, Washington & Paris; John W. Holoubek, Omaha; Ant. J. Jakl; Joseph Jiránek, Columbus; Wm. E. Kavan, Omaha; J. N. Kilian; B. V. Kohout, Wilber; Thomas Fr. Konop; Jos. J. Krajíček, Omaha; John Franklin Kreychik (Krejčík); Charles H. Kubát, Omaha; Charles A. Kutcher (Kučera); Leo. S. Legros, Spencer; Frank Lundák, now of Gregory, So. Dak.; Fr. F. Matoušek, Ord; John E. Měkota, Wilber; John Thomas Mílek; Fr. H. Mizera, David City; Jos. L. Padrnos, Omaha; Otto E. Plaček, Wilber; Emil A. Plaček, Wahoo; Jerome B. Pospíšil; Fred E. Pták; Otto N. Rada, Omaha; A. A. Řezáč, Dunning; Walter B. Sadílek, Schuyler; Frank A. Šafránek; Emanuel H. Shary (Šárý); Sylvester V. Shonka (Šonka); Charles H. Sláma, Wahoo; Joseph P. Špirek, Omaha; Victor M. Špirk; Hugo F. Srb, Dodge; Branson W. Štasenka; C. R. Štasenka ,Franklin; Thomas Stibal, Schuyler; Ed. J. Svoboda, Ralph E. Svoboda, Omaha; Albert Adolph Tenopír; Philip A. Tomek, David City; Theodore E. Uhlíř; George C. Uhlíř; E.

L. Vogletanz, Ord; Joseph T. Votava, Omaha; Casimir Žáček, Otto H. Žáček, West Point; Thomas Žáček, Julius J. Žitník, Joseph Vojíř, Joseph C. Wolf, Omaha.

Dentists

As far as known, Dr. John Mach of Omaha is the first Czech graduate of a dental school in Nebraska. He was born May 8, 1877, in Omaha, his parents John and Josephine (Mizera) Mach, being pioneer residents of that town. His maternal grandfather was a pioneer of Saunders County. He graduated from the School of Dentistry in Omaha April 1, 1898. Married Miss Dorothy Hansen and has always lived in Omaha.

Dr. John Mach

As with physicians, it is not possible to give a complete list of dentists that are and were here. We can give only those who are at present (1926) engaged in the profession. However, we can record the name of the first and thus far only woman dentist, that of Miss Pauline Kubitcheck (Kubíček), who practiced in Omaha for a short time in the early part of the 1900 decade. Her office was situated on William street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth and she was considered very good in her work. Inasmuch as the same name appears in the list given, it is likely that she came from Holt county, for Dr. Jacob Kubitchek's address is Atkinson and Dr. Fr. J. Kubitchek's is O'Neill, in that county.

Dr. Jacob Kubitcheck, Atkinson (Kubíček); Dr. S. J. Jelínek, Brainard; Dr. V. L. Odvárka, Clarkson; Dr. Charles Tobiška, Crete; Dr. Robert Fred Kouba, Fremont; Dr. George C. Šmaha, Dr. J. J. Tomiška, Grand Island; Dr. W. F. Sadil, Hastings; Dr. John Pálenský, Howell; Dr. Hubert A. Čapek; Dr. Adelmar Ballard Chaloupka, Lincoln; Dr. Joseph Vacek, Madison; Dr. Lyman L. Boháč, Dr. Francis J. Boháček, Dr. Louis J. Chaloupka, Dr. Břetislav Dientsbier, Dr. Ed. R. Dostal, Dr. Charles Lukovský, Dr. John Mach, Dr. Milton Mach, Dr. Joseph F. Mareš, Dr. Frank A. Motis, Dr. Frank W. Novák, Dr. Adolph

G. Šindelář, Dr. Emil Leo Soukup, Dr. Julius C. Soukup, Dr. Frank R. Vaško, Dr. James D. Vaško, Dr. Fred James Vaverka, Dr. Joseph Yechout (Jechout), Omaha; Dr. Fr. J. Kubitchek (Kubíček), O'Neill; Dr. J. G. Vacek, Pawnee City; Dr. Joseph E. Růžička, Plainview; Dr. Matěj J. Růžička, Prague; Dr. Louis J. Fisher, Dr. A. W. Johanes, Dr. Louis Anton Proškovec, Schuyler; Dr. Benjamin Krajíček, Scribner; Dr. Jerome M. Pučelík, Spencer; Dr. Joseph L. Plíhal, Table Rock; Dr. Robert B. Slepička, Tobias; Dr. Charles D. Kratochvil, Verdigre; Dr. Roland E. Sláma, Wahoo; Dr. James F. Woita (Vojta), Weston; Dr. Otto Karl Brt, Dr. F. J. Fisher, Dr. Charles Mallat (Malát), Wilber; Dr. Paul A. Bartuněk, Wolbach.

Czechs in the Banking Business

In the history of Colfax County is an account of the pioneer banker of Nebraska, Frank Folda, and of his son and nephews, who control six banks, as follow: Clarkson State Bank, Clarkson; Colfax County Bank, Howell; Farmers & Merchants Bank, Linwood; Pilger State Bank, Pilger; Bank of Rogers, Rogers and Banking House of F. Folda, Schuyler. The bank in Schuyler is the parent house and was established by Frank Folda in 1887. As far as known, it is not only the first Czech bank in Nebraska but in the United States anywhere. Thomas Čapek, an authority on matters pertaining to history and social conditions of our people in this country, mentions it as such.

Aside from the Foldas we have another banking family, the Kirchmans and their relatives, who control eight banks. While they entered the field a little later, they have achieved fine results. Mr. W. C. Kirchman, a Saunders county pioneer, whose biography is given in that county and who is now deceased, came to Wahoo in 1876 and was the founder of these banks. At first he engaged in general merchandise business, later becoming a county officeholder and then gradually entering the banking and land-holding field. His brother Frank J., who has succeeded him as president of several banks, was born in Klatovy, Bohemia, December 1, 1865, and came with his parents to Allegheny City, Pa., in December, 1868. In 1881 he moved with them to Chicago and in December, 1884, came to Wahoo, having obtained a position there in the Saunders County National Bank, where he has been since. The other relatives are: W. H. Kirchman,

son of W. C.; Joseph F. Baštář, his brother-in-law; Dr. George F. Šimánek (of Omaha), his son-in-law; Julius Petermichel, his nephew,—and George Kareš, brother-in-law of F. J. Kirchman. In the eight banks controlled by them but five non-Czechs are interested as officials. F. J. Kirchman is president of the Saunders County National Bank, and Nebraska State Savings Bank, both of Wahoo; The State Bank of Colon; The Farmers & Merchants Bank

W. C. Kirchman

Fr. J. Kirchman

of Weston; Oak Creek Valley Bank, Valparaiso; Farmers & Merchants Bank of Prague and Security Bank of Winner, South Dakota. Julius Petermichel is president of the State Bank of Touhy.

It is interesting to note that there had been no Czech bank in Omaha until 1917, although this can be explained by the fact that the settlement there numbers a very large percentage of laborers, artisans and small business men, very few wealthy people. The Omaha Loan and Building Association has been their haven, as a savings bank, for many years. However, the Union State Bank, of which F. C. Horáček is president, established in 1917, has made wonderful strides. It does not depend, of course, altogether on Czech business. In the spring of 1927 a beautiful seven-story office building was erected at a cost of $800,000.00, on the northeast corner of 19th and Farnam streets. Mr. Horáček was born in Vomice, Moravia, February 10,

1875, and came to Brainard, Nebr., in 1890. He farmed near Brainard for eight years and married Miss Fannie Svoboda there in 1898. In 1905 he entered the banking business and in 1917 moved to Omaha.

The following is a list of banks controlled by Czechs in 1926:

First Trust Company, Ord; Abie State Bank, Abie; State Bank of Bee, Bee; Brainard State Bank, Farmers State Bank, Brainard; Bruno State Bank, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Bruno; Clarkson State Bank,

Union State Bank Building, Omaha

Farmers State Bank, Clarkson; State Bank of Colon, Colon; Farmers & Merchants Bank, Comstock; Dodge State Bank, Dodge; Dwight State Bank, Dwight; State Bank of Elk Creek; Elyria State Bank, Elyria; Enola State Bank, Enola; Goodwin State Bank, Goodwin; Farmers & Merchants National Bank, Havelock; Colfax County Bank, Farmers State Bank, Howell; Hubbard State Bank, Hubbard; Home State Bank, Humboldt; Home State Bank, Kennard; Leigh State Bank, Leigh; Lindsay Farmers & Merchants Bank, Lindsay State Bank, Lindsay; Farmers & Merchants Bank, Linwood; Loma State Bank, Loma; Malmo State Bank, Malmo; Farmers & Merchants Bank, Nebraska State Bank, Milligan State Bank, Milligan; Farmers State Bank, Morse Bluff; First State Bank of North Bend, North Bend; State Bank of Odell,

Odell; Union State Bank, Omaha; Ord State Bank, Ord; Security State Bank, Osmond; Pilger State Bank, Pilger; Bank of Prague, Prague; Farmers & Merchants Bank, Prague; Richland State Bank, Richland; Bank of Rogers, Rogers; Bank of Scotia, Scotia; Banking House of F. Folda, Schuyler State Bank, Schuyler; Bank of Swanton, Swanton; Community State Bank, Table Rock; State Bank of Touhy, Touhy; Oak Creek Valley Bank, Valparaiso; Knox County Bank, Verdigre State Bank, Verdigre; Nebraska State Savings Bank, Saunders County National Bank, Wahoo; Farmers & Merchants Bank, The Weston Bank, Weston; Nebraska State Bank, West Point; Bank of Wilber, Saline State Bank, Wilber State Bank, Wilber.

Conclusion

During the great World War (1914—1918) and for some time after, feeling against foreigners in this country ran high and the Americanization movement was begun. At first some of its advocates thought their first duty lay in eradicating from the hearts and minds of immigrants all memories of their native land. That spirit is passing. We know we cannot do that to anyone. Our immigrants must become good, law-abiding citizens, but we must not expect that they can put aside what means so much to them.

When mature or elderly people cross the ocean to settle in a strange country, it is like transplanting old trees. Such people thereafter are never quite the same as native inhabitants. They are the span that bridges over the old generations in Europe with the new in America. Always they think with love and longing of the dear land of their birth, which is but human and noble. Did not the great Scottish bard say long ago:

> "Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
> Who never to himself has said:
> This is my own, my native land?"

At the same time they know that our country offers a better future to them and their descendants. They love their native land as a man loves his mother; they love this country as a man loves his wife, who brings to him children that his line may continue. If they perform their duty as good citizens and give to the United States a future race, they have helped fully to build our splendid commonwealth.

Czech pioneers who came to our beautiful state have indeed done their part toward changing it from a treeless plain to a verdant, fruitful region. In turn, they have every reason to feel grateful, for Nebraska gave them an opportunity, even though fraught at first with hardship, the like of which they could not have even dreamed about in their small and crowded native land.

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"A HISTORY OF CZECHS IN NEBRASKA," By ROSE ROSICKY, was published by the CZECH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Nebraska, in October, 1929, in 2,000 copies, this being the second publication of the Society.

THE CZECH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Nebraska was founded in December, 1926, the object being: "To maintain the level of the Bohemian (Czech) element in Nebraska and with this end in view to care for Czechoslovak cultural interests: The teaching of the Bohemian language; conserving matters of historical value; publishing histories of Bohemians in Nebraska; promoting the erection of suitable markers; fostering friendly relations with each other and in other suitable ways striving toward the appointed goal."

The committee on publication of this History included the following: C. V. Svoboda, V. F. Jelínek, Stan. Šerpán, F. C. Horáček, Jos. T. Votava, Otakar Charvat, Václav Tesař, Adolph Musil and Jos. A. Vojíř.

The officers of the Association in 1929 were: C. V. Svoboda, President, St. Paul, Nebr.; V. F. Jelínek, Vice-President, Omaha; Stan. Šerpán, Secretary, Omaha; F. C. Horáček, Treasurer, Omaha.

The address of the CZECH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Nebraska is in care of Stanley Šerpán, Secretary, 402 South 12th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

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